

# EASTERN WORLD

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LONDON

MAY 1955

Volume IX

Number 5

**Contents include:**

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THE NEW ASIA**

H. E. LEON MARIA GUERRO

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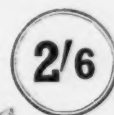
P. C. SEN

**CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
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**INDIA'S LEAD IN  
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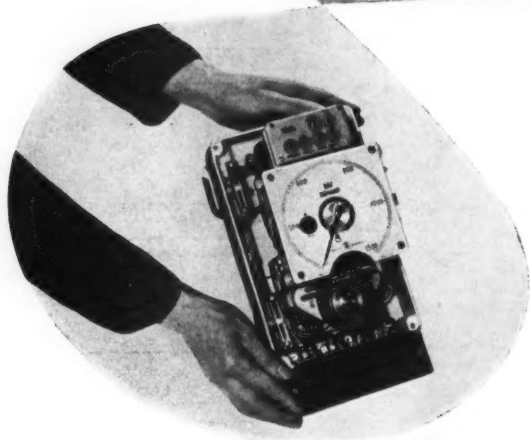
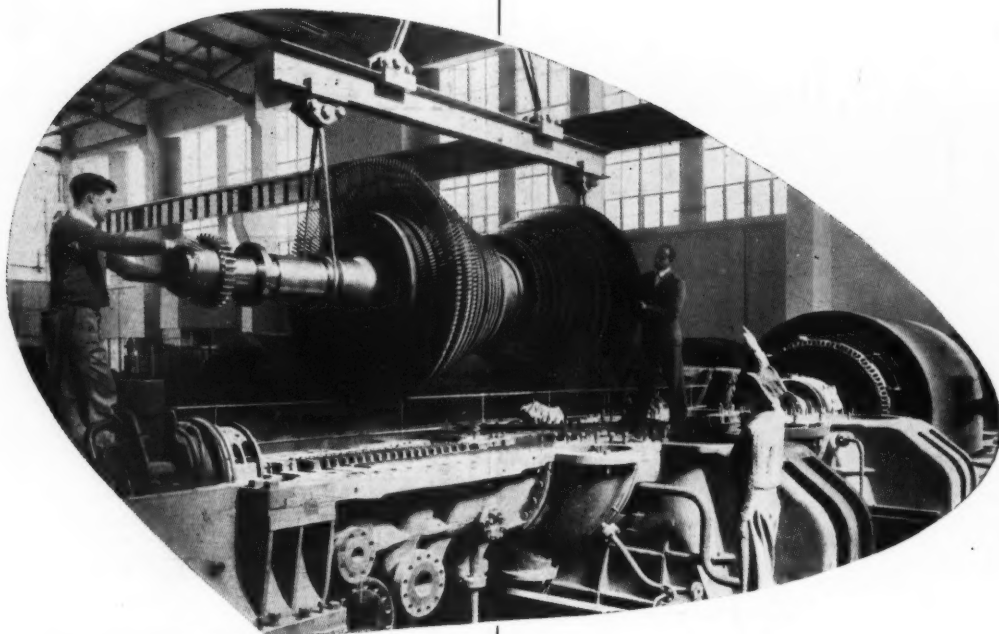


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(left) Winning rice in the Philippines  
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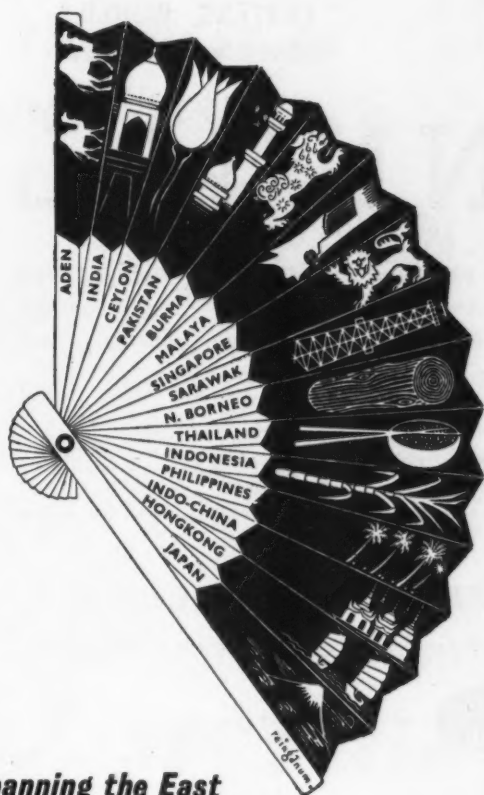


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TELEPHONE: WELBECK 7439

CABLES: TADICO, LONDON

EDITOR AND MANAGING DIRECTOR: H. C. TAUSSIG

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER: E. M. BIRD

SUBSCRIPTION: £1. 10. post free

AIR MAIL:—Subscriptions taken by air mail to all countries depend on cost of postage added to the basic subscription fee of £1. 10. (Present additional costs: £2. 14. p.a.)

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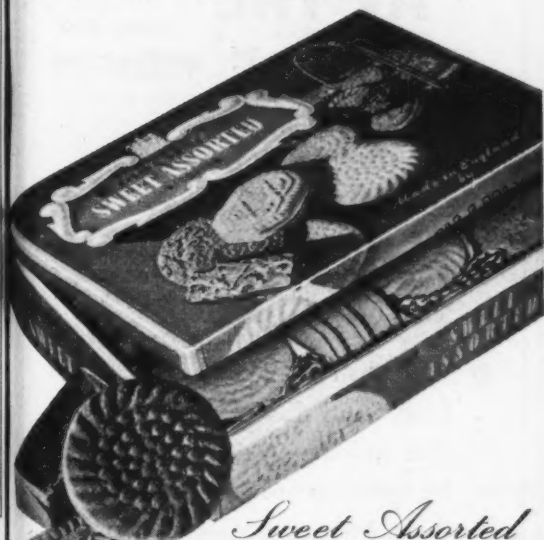
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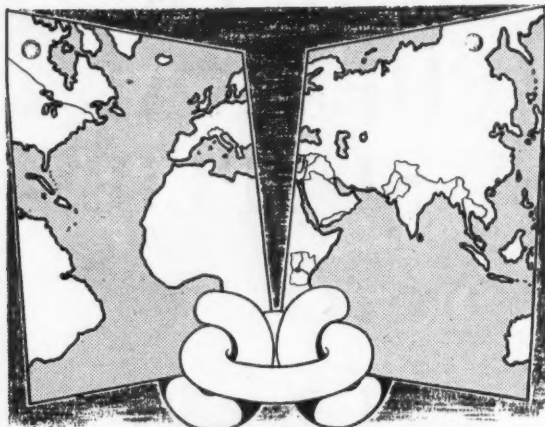
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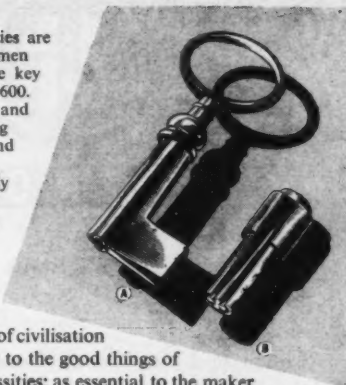
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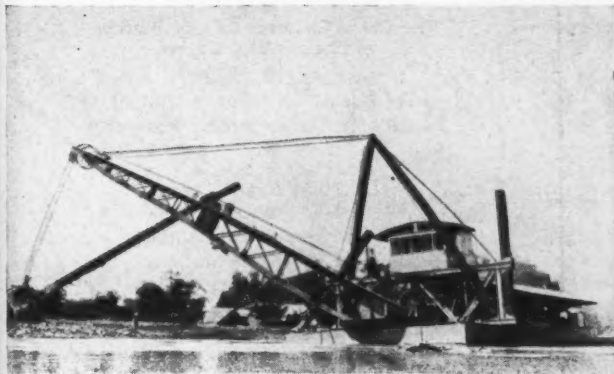


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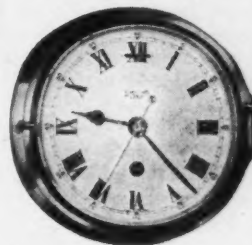
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# EASTERN WORLD

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## Achievements at Bandung

**I**T is too early to judge whether the conference of African and Asian countries at Bandung was a success in the general sense of increasing the long term possibilities of peace in the world. Certainly it contributed enormously towards nations of a wide area understanding each other's problems, and that in itself is an encouraging advance.

Nevertheless, what precise and imprecise results is it possible to see from Bandung at this close distance? There is no doubt that the strength of the gathering stemmed, as much of the self assertion in Asia has stemmed for the past few years, from the close understanding between India and China—the two most powerful Far Eastern nations. These two countries have led in the movement against colonialism and the racial revolt, and it is not exaggerated to say that the achievements of these two have acted as a spur to the resurgence of Asia. And yet politically they are poles apart. But the combined influence of Mr. Nehru and Mr. Chou lies in the recognition that their political philosophies, while being right for their own countries, only become dangerous once they are exported to places where they are not welcomed. To make the conference a success it was imperative to bring this influence to bear.

It seems a fair assumption that one of the underlying reasons behind the convening of the Bandung conference was to investigate how far the idea of neutralism went, how acceptable it would be to countries outside the Asian area, and to see if it could be applied to a wide enough area of the world to keep the antagonisms between the United States and the Soviet Union from encroaching upon the peaceful development of new and nascent nations of the post-war world. The tenor of Chou En-lai's speech, in which he gave assurances of China's friendly intentions towards her Asian neighbours, contributed towards the idea that neutralism can work in practice.

The opinion has been current in the West for some time that neutralism as a concept is sterile, and that the Afro-Asian Conference would either achieve nothing at all or fall prey to the insidious wiles of Communism. Not all the countries which attended the conference will in the last analysis support the Colombo Powers' approach—now backed by China. It became obvious that the Middle Eastern section of the conference, although just as antagonistic towards colonialism as their Asian colleagues, had a

slightly different view about their place in world affairs. The outburst of the Iraqi delegate against the wickedness of Communism did not rouse Mr. Chou to the defence of his political belief, and his silence is perhaps some indication of how much importance China attached at the conference to a calm, reasoned approach. Indeed it seems that Mr. Nehru, U Nu, and Chou En-lai found the intemperate attacks against Israel and Communism, which in turn were attacks on the principles of the conference, of less importance than the general feeling that became increasingly evident, towards reassurance and non-commitment.

It was the opinion of most political observers before the conference that China would try to rally the uncommitted countries of Asia to her point of view, that they should all band together in condemnation of the United States. India and her friends were confident that an assurance by China based on the five principles of coexistence that govern the Sino-Indian agreement on Tibet, thus bringing China more clearly into the Asian scene, would give their conception of a peaceful and uncommitted Asian development some force. To some extent this has happened, and Bandung has shown the first sign of the power manifestation of neutralism and of Asia's determination to work for a firmly stabilised world peace.

## Malaya and Seato

**T**HE unexpected result of the Singapore elections where 16 of the 25 elected seats went to left-wing progressive parties is indicative of the present trend of political thinking in the Malayan peninsula. No one expected David Marshall's Labour Front to get ten seats, and it was thought that the People's Action Party, with its extreme left-wing approach, would not appeal to the electors enough to secure the party as many as three seats in the Legislature. The Alliance of United Malay National Organisation and the Malayan Chinese Association, which has an appeal less in Singapore than in Malaya, secured near enough what was expected—three seats.

The coalition of the Labour Front and the Alliance, —the People's Action Party did not join the Government—will increase nationalist feelings and will make more audible the demand for full independence, and this will doubtless be reinforced when the results of the Malayan Federal elections, due on July 27, are known. It is expected that there the UMNO-MCA Alliance will gain a substantial majority.

We have come to the beginning of the last chapter in the colonisation of Malaya. The people who, it should be remembered, have a high rate of literacy by Asian standards, have shown in Singapore and will show in Malaya itself, that they desire independence as ardently as any Indian, Burmese or Vietnamese. The reason why the Progressive Party in Singapore fared so badly in the elections was because it had such long-standing connections with the Colonial power. Because Malaya is a country of heterogeneous communities does not mean that the nationalistic feeling for self-government is any the less strong.

With this resurgent trend becoming more evident every day in the Colony it would seem that the plans for sending more Commonwealth troops there are peculiarly misplaced. But nothing, it seems, least of all the feelings of the people, will be allowed to hamper the establishment of the nucleus of a SEATO military force in Malaya. It is positively incredible that the western nations have not learned in the last ten years that to ride roughshod over the wishes of indigenous peoples is disastrous for future relations between East and West.

The troops that are due from Australia and the aircraft from New Zealand, together with the units from Great Britain, are to form a formidable group that will link up with the United States in the event of "any aggression in South-East Asia." None of the Commonwealth countries is wildly enthusiastic about placing its troops on the northern borders of Malaya in deference to American pressure to have something tangible to show for SEATO. Australia has always found it difficult to persuade her people to agree that Australian troops should serve abroad in peace-time, and to do so now she has resorted to the use of a recruiting poster which shows a Chinese who says that he has lost his country because it was a victim of aggression and that Australia "as a nation have pledged our armed support." (It is amusing to note that the Chinese on the poster is in fact a native of Malaya whose picture first appeared in the 1953 *Straits Times Annual*).

This assumption, readily agreed to by some of the member nations of SEATO, that the war against China has already begun, is creating a climate of behaviour that in Malaya could become dangerous to the future of independence in the Colony. This is one of the difficult problems which will present itself to the political leaders in Singapore and Malaya, and one which will not be easy of solution.

### British position on Formosa

**S**INCE Sir Anthony Eden outlined official British policy on the Formosa situation in the House of Commons on March 8, when he said that he hoped Peking would refrain from using force and that the Nationalists should evacuate all the offshore islands, nothing more has been said from the British angle. The Foreign Secretary told the House that he was of the opinion that at that time there was no basis for a conference, and that the "necessary conditions for progress do not yet exist."

His remarks seemed to indicate that the British Government were in contact with Peking as well as Washington, and were trying, through secret diplomacy, to create conditions favourable to a meeting. Nothing has come of it. In the interim the Communist Chinese have continued to claim their right to take the offshore islands and Formosa by force if they are not handed over peacefully; and in Washington the Administration has been subjected to pressure from the Knowland-Radford faction to such an extent that President Eisenhower's policy looks more dangerously ambivalent every day.

As this journal has pointed out before, the islands are not a separate issue from the Peking claim to Formosa. There is no question of Quemoy and the Matsus belonging to China and Formosa not. In the long run the whole lot will have to go to China. The immediate question, however, is where Britain stands in relation to United States policy in the Formosa Strait. With the reported build-up of the Chinese air force in the vicinity of the islands, this question is vital.

Britain has no commitment to join the United States in any conflict with the Chinese, and yet it is not difficult to imagine the awkward position Britain would find herself in if the Americans got themselves involved in a war. The close alliance between Britain and the United States has so far been preserved at all costs, and on both sides there have been wry faces at some of the bitter pills that have had to be swallowed—the American reaction to the Geneva Conference being the most notable example.

Britain has already recognised that Quemoy and the Matsus are Chinese territory, and although Sir Anthony Eden hoped the Chinese would not resort to force to acquire them, he could not blame Peking outright if, after all the warning they have given, they wrested the islands from the Nationalists. They are committed by internal policy to do this. How then could the United Kingdom react if America took up the cudgels on behalf of the Nationalists or what could Britain do now to forestall such a situation? There has been a suggestion, now given added weight by the speech of Adlai Stevenson, that Great Britain support or initiate a resolution in the United Nations condemning the use of force in the Formosa Strait. As things stand at the moment this could not be undertaken by the British, because the Kuomintang and the United States are sitting prettily in a defensive position holding on to territory to which they are not entitled, and the first move is left to Peking. In any case Britain would hardly like to commit herself in any way to involvement even through the United Nations, in the Formosan affair.

The problem that faces Britain is what diplomatic attitude to take if, in the coming months, China does attempt to liberate the offshore islands, and the US becomes involved. Those people in the US who are crying out for a showdown with Communist China are confident that in the last resort Britain would have to refrain from condemning American action in order to preserve the alliance. Unless Britain takes an unambiguous stand now, as the country moves into a General Election, the alliance is likely to meet a challenge that will break it wide open. It must be made clear to Washington immediately that Britain's condition for preserving the alliance between the two countries is that the offshore islands be evacuated, and that there should be a meeting of all concerned as soon as possible to decide when and how Formosa can be handed over to the Peking Government.

If the Conservative Government is not willing to take this solid stand, the British Labour Party should place it as a square issue before the electorate of Britain on the 26th of this month.





HORROR COMICS

## ASIA IN WASHINGTON

By David C. Williams (Washington)

**P**RIME Minister Nehru's sharp criticism of American policy in the Far East has caused considerable annoyance and even indignation in Administration circles here. It is being met with rather more sympathy by those observers, particularly in the Democratic Party, who fear that what they term the "devious and duplicitous" course of the US with regard to Quemoy and Matsu may involve it in a major war.

Seldom has a great nation presented such a picture of confusion and indecision at the highest levels. The offshore islands have been described as essential to the defence of Formosa—and, on even higher authority, as not essential. If they are attacked by the Chinese Communists, the United States may use "tactical" atomic weapons against the mainland—and then, again, it may not. Even American assessments of Communist intentions are openly contradictory; Admiral Carney, in an "off-the-record" supper with twenty Washington journalists, predicted an imminent Communist attack, only to be sharply rebuked by President Eisenhower at his next Press conference.

The fact is that, in spite of Vice-President Nixon's

effort to brush it off as Communist propaganda, there does exist within the Administration a "war party" which thinks that now is the time to check and possibly to overturn the Peking Government. In this group belong Admiral Radford, the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Nixon himself; Secretary of State Dulles; and Walter Robertson, the chief State Department official for Chinese affairs. It is only fair to add that some Democrats share this view, including notably Senator Symington of Missouri, former Secretary for the Air Force under President Truman, who in a significant speech last year developed the thesis that World War III has already begun, and that the United States must act decisively before it is too late.

In opposition to the "war party" are many Republicans, most Democratic leaders, and the great majority of the American people. Senators Morse and Lehman, progressive Democrats, have taken the lead by introducing a resolution in the Senate to the effect that the United States should not defend Quemoy and Matsu, whatever the Chinese Nationalists decide to do. This, in effect, would revoke an earlier resolution, hastily passed under great pressure from the Administration, which gave

President Eisenhower a free hand in this area and which amounted, its critics charged, to a "pre-dated declaration of war."

In any event the decision lies in the hands of the President himself. Last September he declared that there is no longer any alternative to peace and, in spite of sniping from within his own Administration, he seems to have been acting sincerely upon this principle—vetoing both American intervention in the Indo-Chinese civil war and American retaliation by air for last autumn's Communist bombardment of Quemoy. It must be candidly said that the attitude of the Chinese Communists has helped rather than hurt the "war party" within the Administration. By their imprisonment of American airmen and by their intransigence over Formosa, they have frustrated progress towards what seems to many Americans of good will the most feasible interim solution—a United Nations trusteeship of Formosa, with the opportunity within a reasonable period of time for the Formosan people to determine their own future.

Meanwhile Senator Mansfield of Montana, one of the leading Democratic spokesmen on Asian affairs, has forcefully reminded his fellow-countrymen that there is more to Asia than Quemoy and Matsu—or even Formosa. He has sounded an urgent alarm about southern Viet Nam and about Japan.

As reported by American correspondents, the situation in southern Viet Nam is rapidly drifting towards complete chaos, with the prospect that Ho Chi Minh's Government

will win the plebiscite, scheduled for next year under the Geneva agreement, virtually by default. It is widely suspected in America that French officials in Indo-China are sabotaging the Government of the southern Viet Nam Prime Minister Ngo Dinh Diem and are seeking instead some sort of deal with Ho Chi Minh—a charge which is being vigorously pressed by Joseph Buttinger, an Austrian Socialist now an American citizen, who visited free Viet Nam last year for the International Rescue Committee. Unless the French are persuaded to give Mr. Diem more support and more arms, Senator Mansfield said, he may be forced out of office by the rebellious Hoa Hao and Binh Xuyen groups. Without Diem, Mansfield warned, "there is no one who can keep Viet Nam free."

Mansfield added his voice to those of a growing number of Americans who foresee a crisis in Japan, on the ground that its search for markets essential to the livelihood of its 82 million people may result in an economic liaison with the Communist bloc. This, he charged, has prompted recent promises by Prime Minister Hatoyama, regarded as no friend of the United States, to seek "normalisation of relations" with the Soviet Union and Communist China. Senator Mansfield concluded by charging that the same "hand-to-mouth" policies which permitted the United States to drift into the Korean and Formosan crises are preventing the country from being "soberly and fully" informed of what the Administration intends doing about the rest of Asia. More is likely to be heard from this vigorous young Democratic Senator in the future.

## UNDERMINING EAST-WEST TRADE

*By J. W. T. Cooper (Eastern World Diplomatic Correspondent)*

**C**AN many people still believe that the restrictions which continue to be placed on western trade with Russia, the eastern European countries and particularly China bring harm only to the Communists? Those who do, are harbouring a grand illusion. The restrictions, it is true, cause a certain amount of annoyance in Peking, as Mr. Tsao, the acting manager of the China National Import and Export Corporation, pointed out in last month's *EASTERN WORLD*, but the chief damage is being done to European countries who are losing large volumes of trade and vast amounts of money.

The embargo on goods to China came as a result of the Korean war, although there had been informal consultation before that between member countries of NATO about trade with Communist powers. In May, 1951, the United Nations passed a resolution restricting the sale of goods which could aid China in the Korean war, and business men in this country and on the Continent saw the sense in such a restriction. The American Battle Act, which became effective in August, 1951, made the situation more positive by threatening to stop economic and military aid to any of America's allies who traded in any of the items included on the list of embargoed goods, supplied from Washington.

To restrict trade with all Communist countries made less sense than in the case of China at that time, especially as the reason seemed to most business men quite illusory. Now, two years after the armistice in Korea, the embargo continues, and European business men resent restrictions on their trading activities and the method used to implement them.

In Paris there sits an organisation called the Consultative Group Cooperation Committee (Cocom for short) which has absolute power in deciding on the kind of contracts British and other business men can enter into with the Communist countries. The representatives who attend Cocom come from the member countries of NATO plus Western Germany and Japan. The Board of Trade in London and the Commerce Ministries in other European capitals will not issue licences for the export of goods to Communist countries without getting the go-ahead from Cocom.

But what is Cocom, and where does its authority rest? The extraordinary thing is that practically no one can get information on the way it functions. It is a veritable cloak and dagger organisation, which grew out of informal contacts years ago. It is not accountable to any government or superior organisation. The individual members—

who are diplomats with little knowledge of commerce—are responsible to their various governments, but the committee has no senior authority to which it is accountable (except perhaps to the US State Department because of its interpretation and implementation of the Battle Act). And yet this unconstitutional committee is quoted in the Parliaments of Europe as if it were superior to governments.

The activities of business men in trying to increase trade between Europe and the Soviet powers and China are completely hamstrung by Cocom, and it is true to say that industrialists are not as willing as their governments to bend before American political pressure. After the end of the Korean war the Americans used the excuse of the Indo-China conflict to continue the embargo, and now it is the Formosa issue. But the business community in Britain now do not see why they should seriously curtail trade with China and other Communist countries exclusively to meet the wishes of American foreign policy. And furthermore the majority of items which are embargoed could not by any stretch of the imagination be called strategic.

There is another and very unsavoury aspect of Cocom which brings condemnation from industrialists. The sub-committees of Cocom, made up of certain people with financial and business interests, have in the last few years used their knowledge of trading secrets to perform smart tricks of a commercial character. One notable instance went something like this: a British firm concluded a contract worth about £1m. with Russia for three whaling factory ships. Before the Board of Trade issued an export licence to the firm in question it asked Cocom for a decision on whether such ships could be delivered to the Soviet Union. The matter was discussed in the sub-committee which recommended to Cocom that the contract be cancelled, which ultimately it was by the non-issuance of an export licence. While the bureaucratic wheels were grinding away someone on Cocom informed a West German firm of the details of the contract. This firm went after the order and secured it, this time for 21 factory ships worth about £7m. In the interim period the sub-committee "reconsidered" its original decision and recommended that the ships come off the embargo list. The British firm was told some time later that they were now free to export factory ships to Russia, but by then, of course, it was too late.

It might be thought that leakages of this kind might occasionally have benefited business men from all European countries, but the fact is that it has not. Decisive American influence on Cocom favours West German, Swiss, and sometimes Dutch business rather than British, French and others, and no British firm has ever profited from the leakage of trade secrets.

These sharp practices are not infrequent, and French trading circles are particularly disturbed to find that many of their business secrets are being passed on to Swiss firms in this way. French suspicions are legitimately aroused when they note that a large part of the capital of Swiss firms is held in American banks.

The delaying of decisions in Cocom, because each

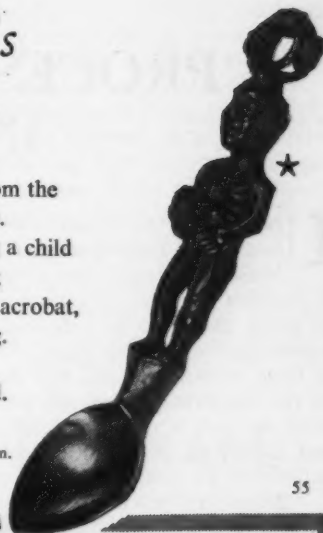
## Collector's Treasure

A ritual spoon from the  
Philippine Islands.

A woman holding a child  
forms the handle ;  
on her head is an acrobat,  
twisted into a ring.

This spoon is  
over 120 years old.

★ From the Rieser Collection.



55

## LIPTON'S TEA

### Connoisseur's Pleasure

member is required to initial the subject under review, has lost firms large amounts of money. Recently, a British firm contracted with the Chinese Government to send a marginal item. The facts were placed before Cocom in February, and during the Paris committee's two month's of deliberation costs of labour and production went up to such an extent that before the item is shipped to China the British firm will have lost a couple of thousand pounds.

It is not unreasonable to speculate on how much American political conscience dictates the restrictions on European trade with China, and how much American business has to do with it.

American commerce was prepared to capture the vast China market after the last war by financing and operating industrial concerns within China, but this was frustrated by the revolution. It was then hoped that if Chiang Kai-shek could be re-installed on the mainland the original plans could go forward as before. Now it has become obvious to American business circles that the Communist regime is in China to stay, they are anxious to drastically curtail European trade with China until such time as a political shift in US policy towards China will allow American firms to open up trade with Peking on a large scale. If they cannot do business with China at this time they see no reason why European firms should get well established.

Cocom, dominated by US influence, accountable to no one, quoted as an authority, is perfectly placed for furthering American political and commercial interests to the sad detriment of British and continental trade.



# PROCESSES AND PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIALISATION

By K. P. Ghosh

**U**NDER the title *Processes and Problems of Industrialisation in Underdeveloped Countries*,\* the United Nations has published its first study on this subject. It promises to be the beginning of a long series of studies to assess the place of industrialisation in an integrated world economy, the practical ways of drawing up plans of rapid industrialisation, and the help that can be given by the industrially developed countries. But the authors draw up such a formidable list of obstacles, hindrances and difficulties that the underdeveloped countries are unlikely to get much comfort from this report.

Before any practical measures can be taken, say the authors, a theory of industrialisation must be evolved by systematic studies and discussions of the various forces influencing the growth of industry. "This might be followed by an attempt at a more dynamic analysis by means of a series of models in which the various parameters are given hypothetical values, then by studies of particular policies and finally by application of the hypotheses to individual countries." The writers clearly envisage employment for themselves for some years to come.

In this first effort, the United Nations experts offer some policy guidance to the underdeveloped countries. In economically advanced countries industrial leadership is divided among many authorities—management, technicians, business promoters, capital providers—but in underdeveloped countries the entrepreneur has to keep practically all these functions to himself, owing to the lack of people and facilities. To ease the burden, the study suggests improving the flow of reliable economic data; lessening the risks of arbitrary changes in laws and regulations; raising the standard of education; and creating industrial development corporations, savings banks and stock exchanges.

Direct governmental action is envisaged in the recruitment of manpower, in maintaining efficient training and educational facilities; in offering fiscal incentives by tax concessions and expansionary credit facilities; in determining the claims of priorities for the use of foreign exchange. When deciding on the rate and extent of industrialisation the study considers it essential to maintain a balance among three sectors of economy—agriculture, secondary industries, and basic services such as water and power supply, transport and distribution facilities.

In examining the ways in which economically developed countries and international organisations can assist the growth of industry in the underdeveloped countries, the study lays stress on the need of these countries for increased

export earnings, whether through an expansion of the volume of exports or a rise in price. Brief descriptions are given of the work of the International Bank, the UN Programme of Technical Assistance, and the Colombo Plan as providers of capital and technical assistance.

Some of the problems likely to develop against which the countries eager for rapid industrialisation are warned include the expansion of the industrial labour force at the expense of agriculture; increase of the disparity between the urban and rural sectors; changes in the pattern of foreign trade; finally, profound alterations in the mode of living, including some very undesirable possibilities, such as child labour, urban slums, breakdown of traditions of social and family life, prostitution and venereal disease.

The main emphasis, however, is on the obstacles and inadequacies already inherent in the basic economic facilities of the underdeveloped countries, also the disparities in the development of various sectors of the economy, capital shortage, lack of industrial skill, low per capita income, increasing population, resistance to social changes, lack of competent and honest administration.

All this has, of course, been known for many years, and the underdeveloped countries know it better than anyone else. They are likely, moreover, to resent the somewhat condescending tone in which they are advised that:

"the development of agriculture simultaneously with, if not in advance of, manufacturing is needed to achieve steady economic progress and avoid structural disequilibria which may later be the source of hardship";

or that they must as far as possible choose the simplest of the production techniques, the sturdiest available machinery, the smallest type of plant consistent with technical efficiency, and in general the technology that makes the best use of the most plentiful factors of production.

Both the International Bank and the International Monetary Fund have examined the study in outline and contributed "helpful observations and suggestions." There is, therefore, no cause for surprise that the study conforms in every respect to the thinking and conclusions of these two institutions and the US Administration itself. The encouragement of basic heavy industries in the underdeveloped countries hence finds no favour in this report, nor is there any support for the suggestion that the international organisations and economically developed countries should, as a matter of urgency, provide capital, technical assistance and other forms of aid.

In view of the present US drive to increase her influence in Asia, the resemblance of these UN ideas on industrial development in the underdeveloped countries to the kind of "infrastructure" being set up in the NATO countries

\*Processes and Problems of Industrialisation in Underdeveloped Countries (United Nations. H.M. Stationery Office: 11s.)



could hardly escape being noted with a certain suspicion. All the underdeveloped countries now receiving American aid, whether military or economic, have been induced to undertake in their separate countries fairly uniform types of economic project, however dissimilar their economic situation. Pakistan, Thailand, the Philippines, Spain and Greece are all building roads, ports, airfields, power-stations, and such industries as mining and food processing. Nowhere is it a secret that these projects are conceived to meet the requirements of US strategic ideas.

This is indeed the gravest shortcoming of the study, that it offers little encouragement to the efforts and aspirations of the countries themselves. While it is true that much remains to be done in the clarification of the laws determining the economic development of particular

communities, or appropriate to particular economic stages, the report ignores much evidence showing that in many countries, in spite of the lack of capital, entrepreneur qualities, and all the other conventional requirements, considerable advance is none the less being made. The First Five-Year Plan of India discusses all the issues raised in this report, of problems and ways and means to meet them. India had, and still has, all the obstacles to cope with, yet who can deny that she has made very considerable progress in industrialisation? Other countries as well which are preparing their plans for industrialisation—Indonesia, Burma, Egypt, and other Asian and South American countries—give every sign that they are determined at all costs to do the same even if, as this study suggests, they must do so without benefit of UN clergy.

## THE PLIGHT OF SOUTH VIET NAM

*By our Special Correspondent*

WITH less than three months to go before representatives of the South Viet Nam Government are to meet with their counterparts from the Government of Ho Chi Minh to prepare the way for next year's plebiscite, the situation in and around Saigon gets worse as each day passes. The formidable challenge which the private armies of the three politically ambitious sects present to the Government of Ngo Dinh Diem has reached a point where it is causing concern to the participating countries in last year's Geneva conference.

It was the aim of the British Foreign Secretary, who diplomatically dominated the western side at the conference, to bring about an immediate cease-fire because it was obvious that if the war was allowed to continue the French and Southern Viet Nam armies would be defeated, and Indo-China won by militant Communism in less than two years. In agreeing to a cease-fire both sides at Geneva were confident that by the time the all-Viet Nam elections took place in July, 1956, each would have convinced the people that the other was not worth voting for.

The Government in the southern half of Viet Nam was at a disadvantage from the start in its quest for the peasants' support, since the majority of the ordinary people in the south as well as the north were already convinced that their best bet for the future lay in supporting the Viet Minh.

What looms up as a ghastly spectre in the eyes of the French, the Americans and the British, is that if things continue in the confused state that they are at present, the Viet Minh will walk away with the elections, and Moscow and Peking will then be able to say, in an "I told you so" manner, that Communism can win in South-East Asia by electoral processes.

All close observers of the situation believe that it is just about too late to produce anything that would convince the people in the south to vote against the Viet Minh. The fact that French business men are reported to be coming to some arrangement with the northern Govern-

ment for carrying on trade in the country after 1956, is a measure of the defeatist outlook in the country. Other observers believe that if a sufficiently strong man could be found who could steer a middle course, roughly on the lines of the popular South-East Asian neutralism, without the restrictions of Catholicism or American aid—in fact a sincere Socialist, then he would receive strong support from the voters on both sides of the 17th Parallel. Such a man, it has become obvious, does not exist in southern Viet Nam.

Ngo Dinh Diem, the present Prime Minister of the Government in Saigon, has shown that he is aware that no government can win in southern Viet Nam if it is supported by the French Army, or if it has the French at its back in any way. The feeling against the French in Indo-China—north, south, east and west alike—is fantastically hostile. But Diem cannot carry on alone, and he has enlisted the support of the Americans (or perhaps it would be more true to say that the Americans have enlisted him in their Asian anti-Communist front). It is not a misstatement to say that Diem would have fallen under the pressure of intrigue long before now if he had not been propped up by the United States.

The misleading aspect of the revolt of the Cao Dai, Hoa Hao and Binh Xuyen sects, is that it does not represent any popular movement in the country at all. These sects with their private armies were supported by the French during the war with the Viet Minh because they were anti-Communist. The private armies were paid by the French. Now that French troops are not all-powerful in southern Viet Nam, and Diem's army is not strong enough to wipe them out entirely, the sects are making claims to having a say in the Government. And it is hardly any secret that they are supported and urged on by the old French colonial element who are alarmed at the retreat of French influence in southern Viet Nam. The Americans, too, recognise that as long as French influence is apparent, then the appeal of the Viet Minh cannot be defeated, and they see

Ngo Dinh Diem as the only rallying point for what anti-Viet Minh feeling there is in the country. This brings the Americans into covert conflict with the French who want to see the end of the Diem Government; although it is not clear what they wish to see in its place. Moreover, there is some annoyance on the French side that aid from the United States is being given direct to Diem instead of as before to the French for distribution to Indo-China. A lot of money was made out of the switch of dollars into French francs and thence into Vietnamese piastres.

While all this has been going on, Britain, who played such a leading part at the Geneva conference, has been looking with alarm at the trend of events. It is obvious to anyone in England that if some sort of settlement is to be found in southern Viet Nam before the elections in July next year, both the French and the Americans must change their attitude. They cannot squabble over the Government in Saigon like two dogs over a bone. Official circles in Britain see that Diem, however richly supported by American money and "know-how," is not likely to rally support among the peasants of Viet Nam. The French, on the other hand, have yet to learn the lesson that the Dutch learnt in Indonesia, that when your colonial days are numbered, get out as speedily and with as much grace

as you can. It is not easy to see what the final solution for Viet Nam could be. The thoroughly fundamental nationalist feelings which are prevalent in southern Viet Nam are obscured by the struggle for government which is going on in Saigon. Two courses only seem to remain open: that the confusion continues until the election results put Ho Chi Minh and his present Cabinet into power in Saigon, or that some means be found, by those of the western side who negotiated at Geneva last year, to bring the intense nationalistic feeling to the surface and rally it round a popular figure who is acceptable to the people, and who later could work in Coalition with the Viet Minh. Such a person, I am afraid, would look so much like a Communist or a left-wing Socialist that he would not be acceptable to the Americans.

The French, United States and British Foreign Ministers will have an opportunity to discuss this problem after they have met in Paris for the NATO Council of Ministers later this month. Every Vietnamese with the future of his country at heart will hope that these eminent gentlemen will talk in terms of what is best for the Vietnamese people and their country, not of how southern Indo-China can be used as a bulwark against the advance of Communism in South-East Asia.

## PAKISTAN TOWARDS DEMOCRACY

By P. C. Sen

**P**AKISTAN, for the second time within six months is in a state of emergency. The Governor-General, Mr. Gulam Mohammed, has assumed supreme powers, including the power to amalgamate the West Pakistan Provinces and States into one unit, and all the authority necessary for the framing of a new constitution.

This came shortly after the Federal Court judgment overruling the decision of the Sind Chief Court stating that the Provincial Court was acting beyond its powers when it ordered that the President of the Constituent Assembly should be allowed to continue in his office and that the new ministers appointed after the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly should not function. The Federal Court held that the Sind Chief Court could not issue these writs because the power to do so depended on legislation which had been passed by the Assembly but had not received the Governor-General's assent. It thus reduced the question to one of jurisdiction without giving a basic ruling on the competence of the Governor-General to take action as he had done.

The Federal Court in issuing its judgment was conscious of the delicacy of the position which had emerged from the struggle for the supremacy between the outdated and totally unrepresentative constituent assembly on one side and the Governor-General supported by the weight of public opinion on the other. The Chief Justice had therefore suggested a compromise since he had felt that the dispute, though it had become focused as a legal one, had many non-justiciable aspects. When all efforts for a compromise broke down, the Federal Court by purposely not going into the question of the validity of the dissolution of the old assembly and upholding the necessity of the assent of the Governor-General for the validation of all legislation passed by the assembly, to some extent cleared the atmosphere but did not settle the dispute.

Any other decision would have invited political chaos. However, the judgment raised as many new problems as it solved.

The ruling thus invalidated 46 laws passed by the assembly in seven years. Meanwhile the lower courts, because the Federal Court had ruled that they did not have certain powers they had been acting upon, had released several prisoners, including senior military officers convicted in 1953 of plotting to overthrow the Government. The Governor-General by an Ordinance on March 27, took emergency measures to return them to prison and assume full authority to rectify this situation. The same day he validated 35 laws by signing them, but did not return to the courts the power to issue prerogative writs.

The validating of these laws, however, was not within his powers. On April 12, the Federal Court ruled that the Governor-General had no authority to validate Acts under the emergency powers which he assumed on March 27.

The legal jig-saw of the Pakistan crisis still remains unsolved, but the Governor-General, it seems, was ready to take drastic measures to remove all obstacles which may confront his plans for constitutional reform. Mr. Surawardy, the Minister for Law, when asked what action the Governor-General would take if the Federal Court had sustained the lower court's decision had said that first, the Governor-General would proclaim an emergency and prevent the Assembly from meeting. Secondly, if the Assembly attempted to petition the court for another writ after the declaration of a new state of emergency, the Governor-General would strip the court's power to issue such a writ. The Governor-General, he added, would even go to the extent of declaring a state of martial law.

It will not be surprising if Gulam Mohammed now chooses to take these drastic steps. Having thus assumed dictatorial powers, the plans made during the six months of the caretaker Government could then be put into practice.

The decision of the Governor-General on October 24, 1954, to dissolve the constituent assembly, though seemingly autocratic at first sight, came as a relief to the masses harassed for seven years by political, sectarian and provincial bickerings. This action of the Governor-General was upheld by the Punjab and Sind legislative assemblies in their resolutions of November 30 and December 11, 1954. On November 22, 1954, Mr. Mohammed Ali broadcast his plan for a merger of the ten States and four Provinces of West Pakistan into one single unit. The Punjab legislative assembly endorsed this plan on November 30, 1954, by a resolution which stated:

"this assembly fully endorses the plan for integration of West Pakistan into a single unified administrative unit . . . and is convinced that it will not only prevent the ugly manifestation of racial, tribal, provincial and parochial spirits but would create proper national spirit which is so vital for the future progress and prosperity of our nation."

The Sind legislative assembly endorsed the plan by the resolution of December 11, 1954. This resolution stated that "this solution will not only accord with the basic economic and social realities of the situation . . . but will facilitate an agreement between the East and West Pakistan on a future pattern of government based on the equality, interdependence and cordial comradeship."

This new Pakistan unitary administration is expected to be inaugurated some time late in May, 1955. This integration, if properly worked out, would dispel provincial racial and parochial feelings and also to a large extent help to reduce the cost of administration by a few million rupees. The saving could be diverted to the under-developed areas. The fundamental notion underlying the integration of West Pakistan into a single unit is to increase its strength as against that of East Pakistan. How this will be achieved is not yet clear, but the situation which existed in the late constituent assembly when East Pakistan representation based on population exceeded that of West Pakistan is not likely to recur. No doubt the constitution would provide against such a misadventure.

The first plan before Mr. Gulam Mohammed is to call a constitutional convention formed by members nominated from the legislatures of the five Provinces, which would review the draft of a constitution that was ready for passage last October. The difficulty which now arises is that the East Pakistan legislature has been in suspension for nearly a year because of what the Central Government considered was a breakdown in administration. Mr. Mohammed Ali recently visited East Pakistan to seek a settlement which would provide for the revival of the legislature. The main reason for the failure of Mr. Mohammed Ali to bring about some kind of an agreement was not so much due to the differences which existed between the Awami League and the Krishak Sramik Party of the United Front, but the obstructive tactics by Mr. Suhrawardy, who felt that the Prime Minister could have saved his time by consulting him rather than bypassing him. The long-pending contest for power between the Prime Minister and Mr. Suhrawardy is now coming to a head, and the ultimate victory may depend less on the political manoeuvres of the contestants than the casting vote of the Governor-General.

Pakistan was formed out of the belief that the Muslims would not get a fair deal after the withdrawal of the British from India. Consequently it is logical to expect that the constitution should provide that Pakistan should become an Islamic State. But the progressive groups and administrators feel that this ideal is too loose and lacks the necessary cohesion so important to the survival of a modern State. They therefore advocate a secular State.

## **Pakistan Horizon**

Published quarterly by the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs, Karachi.

Contains papers on international questions, particularly those in which Pakistan is interested.

Annual subscription - - Rs. 8-0-0 (or 20/-)  
Single copy - - - - - Rs. 2-0-0 (or 5/-)

Recently there has been much discussion about Pakistan adopting a modified American political system. This envisages a federation of two autonomous States of East and West Pakistan with the President as the Head of the State. The President would be assisted by a Council of Ministers appointed by him, enjoying wide powers but not responsible to the legislature. This system is said to be consonant with and "parallel to our Islamic way of life."

Supporting this theory, Maj. Gen. Iskander Mirza who had previously advocated something flexible like the British constitution has commented that "for seven years Pakistan had attempted to apply the British political system . . . the results are there for anyone to see." Another high official has said "we would be free of the terror of no confidence motions that distract us too often from primary purposes of implementing policy."

Though it is up to the new constituent assembly, to accept or reject the form of draft constitution, it is unreasonable and dangerous for persons in power to categorically state the type of constitution to be adopted as has been done by Maj. Gen. Iskander Mirza and others.

One of the differences which existed between Maulvi Tamizuddin, the President of the old constituent assembly, and the present administrators during the compromise talks was on the nature of franchise. Maulvi Tamizuddin envisaged the grant of unrestricted adult franchise as in the provincial elections since 1951. The opponents however cited the case of East Pakistan where elections held on a basis of adult suffrage produced a Government which had to be replaced by the Governor's rule within a few months of its establishment. They contend that this could have been avoided if literacy had been made a prerequisite of the right to vote. This argument will undoubtedly be put into practice when the caretaker Government calls for national elections for a new constituent assembly.

However sensible the latter argument may seem, to divest the common man of his freedom to exercise his rights in the ruling of his country could hardly be called democratic. In a country with a meagre 15 per cent. of literates, the literacy qualification for the exercise of the franchise would in effect disfranchise the bulk of the population represented by 85 per cent. of illiterates. Nor is the assumption that illiteracy implies lack of political consciousness true. The maturity of the people was surely in evidence in the demand they made for the creation of Pakistan. Given time the experiment of democracy could bear fruit. In this connection it is pertinent to quote Edmund Burke. He said, "The individual is foolish, and the multitude is foolish when it acts without deliberation, but the species is wise and, when time is given to it, it always acts right."

Many observers of the developments in Pakistan are of the opinion that the probability of Pakistan ever becoming a



democracy in the next decade has become more remote than ever. These observers include members close to the Cabinet who recall the remarks of Maj. Gen. Iskander Mirza that "Pakistan is obviously not yet ripe for democracy as the term is understood in Britain and America," and again that there would be "controlled democracy" in Pakistan and that the "people had to be saved from themselves."

The hope of Pakistan moving towards democracy rests on Mr. Gulam Mohammed, the Governor-General. On him lies the responsibility for the initiation of three vital steps. The

first is the necessity to restrain the over-enthusiasm of professional administrators in his Government, who for reasons of being in the habit of serving the State machine are likely to move away from democratic practices. The second is, in the shrewdness and judgement with which he handles Mr. Suhrawardy and the Prime Minister, who seem to have now reached the final stage of a showdown. The last and the most important, is to convince the Bengali that the creation of the unitary State would not necessarily mean his subjugation by the West and relegation to the status of a second-class citizen.

## THE PHILIPPINES IN THE NEW ASIA

*By H. E. Leon Maria Guerro (Philippine Ambassador in London)*

**T**HERE are three points I should like to make. The first is suggested by the attitudes which I have found common, not only in Britain, but in other western countries. It is an attitude of bafflement. Western people are accustomed to think and speak of the so-called inscrutable Oriental mind, and they are quite resigned to not understanding it. One gets the impression that on the other shores of the Mediterranean, straight across to the Pacific, the world is inhabited by a different species of humanity, men who are somewhat less and somewhat more than ordinary men, more skilled in concealing their thoughts which are at the same time less moral thoughts, men whose motives are unpredictable because they are somehow extraordinary, and whose actions are unexpected because they are somewhat mad.

Of course that is not so. I believe it was an eminent Asian who first pointed out that there is no such thing as an Asian mind, meaning, of course, not that we Asians have no minds, but that we Asians are not all of the same mind. In fact, there would be more ground for believing that there is a European mind than that there is an Oriental or Asian mind. For me, one of the most striking things about the recent debate on the European Defence Community was that there were Frenchmen and Germans who thought of themselves primarily as "Europeans." I daresay we have not yet begun to think that way in Asia. The political independence of our various nations is too new, and therefore sweet.

Outside of that, there is no mysterious difference between us. An Asian nationalist thinks and acts and reacts in much the same way that a European nationalist does. In our world and time, men are more closely akin and intelligible to one another in terms of common experience, common aspirations, common necessities, than in terms of race and geography.

I make this point because all too often people in the West are needlessly worried and puzzled by such things as "face." If "face" is properly understood as nothing more than self-respect, a sense of individual or national dignity or responsibility, then surely westerners would be the first to claim that they are just as much concerned about "face" as any Asian. The worship of power, naked power, is another mythical attribute which westerners like to give to the so-called Oriental mentality. But surely the fear of power, the respect that men are compelled to give to forces they cannot control, is not peculiar to Asians alone. Five million Chinese Communist soldiers have approximately the same effect on Asians as two hundred Russian divisions and Russian nuclear weapons, whatever they may be, have on Europeans. That does not mean, however, that Asians are readier to throw up their arms than Europeans.

An Asian understands the meaning of events in Korea and Viet Nam no more and, I emphasise, no less than a European understood the meaning of events in Greece and Berlin. There is no secret, no riddle, no "inscrutability" about it; you would have a fair idea of the Asian mind if you read your own.

For all that, there is perhaps one thing in which Asia differs significantly from Europe, and it is the second point I should like to make. It is a matter of attitudes, of expectations, and the best way to explain it may be by refuting another commonplace of western thought about Asia, the rhetorical device, taken as fact, that describes Asia as "ancient." I have always understood that the world was created all in one piece at about the same time, and if Asia is "ancient," so is Europe. But that is not, of course, what people mean. They mean that Asia is somewhat "old-fashioned," or, to use a blunter word, "backward."

In most of Asia the crust of ancient custom still remains. But it is only a crust, and what is underneath is very new, at least for Asia. It is as new for Asia as were for Europe, in their time, the break-up of the Roman Empire, the feudal crusades for deep beliefs, silks and spices, and glittering crowns for the bold, the intellectual ferment of the Renaissance, the moral trials and adventures of the Reformation, the eager ruthlessness, the restless experimentation, the misery, the optimism of the Industrial Revolution—all of these, three-fourths of Europe's history, merged into one for Asia. Because ancient Asia is reborn, because she is young again, she is full of hope. She is everything that the young are; enthusiastic, quarrelsome, idealistic, impulsive, intolerant, generous in sacrifice, sanguine in expectations, and often divided in heart and confused in purpose by the discovery of reality.

To the traveller from Asia, Europe seems old and weary, tired of so much history, tired of making it and enduring it, tired of having so many things happen to her. Europe just wants to be left alone. But young Asia has a lot of history before her; she wants to get so many things done that the past left undone. In terms of history, it is the Asians who are the new Elizabethans, sure of honour and glory, reckless of the odds, enchanted by self-discovery, feverishly impatient of success. Of course, one should not make generalisations about Asia and its infinitely varied races, religions, peoples, and states, its Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims and Christians, its kingdoms, republics, and dictatorships of the right and of the left, above all, its Communists and non-Communists. But all of these, I believe, are engaged in the same task, each in their own chosen spirit, with their own approach and methods: and we are all reorganising the structure of society.



By and large, we have all passed the stage of political emancipation and, to a greater or lesser degree, are learning political stability and the techniques of self-government. But we are still trying to formulate and execute a satisfactory system of developing and distributing our national wealth. The western world is beginning to discover that political activity is only part, perhaps the least significant part, an essential but not decisive preliminary, of the story of the new Asia. The dynamic impulse of political revolution in Asia was, I daresay, economic and social, and it is an impulse that has not yet been fulfilled and still dominates the scene. Everywhere in Asia people want more things, and they want to grow and make these things for themselves. It is a feeling that combines intellectual curiosity, physical confidence, the profit motive, and moral self-satisfaction.

Here an Egyptian *junta* plans a new dam to store the ancient tides of the River Nile. There an Arab autocrat calls for an aeromagnetic survey of his *wadis* and oases. Further on, the Indian Government goes shopping for one more gigantic steel mill, and ponders the fascinating idea of leaping across the vast expanse of centuries with the help of atomic power. Ethiopians, Burmese, Chinese, Filipinos—we all have our five-year, seven-year, ten-year programmes to open up with modern highways and airports the lands that have lain fallow for thousands of years, to dig for oil, to stamp out ancient plagues, to give food, clothing and shelter, to men and women who have been hungry, naked, and homeless for generations. What is the consequence of all this? One consequence is that the western world should not be surprised if Asians are impatient, self-centred, jealous, improvident, a little grim. We have a job on our hands. We are learning to help ourselves, and if we make mistakes the rest of the world will just have to put up with us and our mistakes.

Another consequence is that we are so busy that we want to be left alone. I said before that Europe also wants to be left alone, but I will venture to say that it is for a different reason. The difference is not absolute; one must allow for the infinite variety of human opinion and emotion. But where the European is revolted by war because he has so much to *lose*, the Asian is impatient with it because he has so much to *do*. When he is not a Communist, and therefore obsessed with his own vision of the future, the Asian thinks he has no time to lose in preparing or planning for war; no energy or wealth to spare on armies and weapons of destruction. That is why, to the anxiety, disillusionment, even anger, of many western people most of the Asian nations are uncommitted in the cold war, and shun any entanglement with one or the other side.

And that brings me to my third and final point, the position of my own country and people in this new Asia. Many people are surprised to hear that the Philippines are in Asia. Recently, at an embassy dinner party, I asked the British guests where they thought the Philippines were, and, to help them out, asked only that they should say whether the Philippines were near Jamaica, Hawaii, or Formosa. Nobody gave the right answer. That is a sad state of affairs, but sadder, I think, for us Filipinos than for anybody else because it shows that, in the eyes of the western world, we have not played a part in the tremendously exciting and significant adventure which is the making of the new Asia. And yet I do not want to take that as the final word, for, in all modesty, we Filipinos sincerely believe that we have made, and can still make, a not entirely worthless contribution to the common task. We are a country of 20 millions, inhabiting 7,000 islands with an area approximately that of the British Isles. That is not so much, as Asian countries go; but perhaps I can say that what we lack in size and numbers, we make up in experience.

We made the first national democratic revolution in Asia; the first Philippine Republic was proclaimed at the end of the

last century, more than a decade before Sun Yat-sen challenged the Manchu dynasty in China. And ours was a true Republic, established on the basis of a Constitution, a bill of human rights, and popular elections. I will make bold to assert that we did not learn democracy from the western world; if our people, who, in their pristine state, knew neither monarchy nor castes, and valued their liberties so highly that they slew Magellan in all his awesome panoply, had something to learn about democracy, it was its theory, which they studied in Europe, and its practice, which they were taught by the Americans.

Our patriot-exiles in the closing years of the nineteenth century absorbed their constitutional ideas from the French philosophers by way of the Spanish Liberals; our parliamentary statesmen and our voters in the opening years of the twentieth century were trained in the techniques of popular government by those enlightened American governors who proclaimed, as soon as it was politically prudent after the defeat of the First Philippine Republic, that "the Philippines were for the Filipinos," and who thereafter yielded us the right, in 1907 to elect a National Assembly; in 1916 to elect a Senate and control the entire Legislature, and, what is more important, to hope for national independence without the use of force; in 1935 to elect our own Chief Executive with a Government invested with all the powers of autonomy; and in 1946, ahead of any other Asian nation colonised by the western world, to re-establish our independent Republic.

What does this mean for Asia? It means that we Filipinos are one Asian people—and surely there are others—who are not poisoned by bitterness towards the western world, who know what the West offers and can give, who—more completely perhaps than any other Asian people—are inspired by the Christian ethos which supports democracy, enlivened and encouraged by faith in the idealism—sometimes cynical and calculating, but more often than not sincere and disinterested—of the western nations, equipped by years, by decades, of practical experience to cope with the unimaginably complex problem of determining that will o' the wisp of democracy, the will of the people.

This gives us certain practical advantages. We are not so much delayed, or confused, or crippled by elementary political experiments. We think we know how to run a democratic election; we think we know how to encourage business with guarantees of law and order. It also enables us to concentrate, as every other Asian nation wants to concentrate, on the work in hand, and to understand that in our time the paramount danger to its success is not so much the resurgence in another form of old-time colonialism, as the fatal illusion, carefully fostered by military blackmail, that we should do better to surrender to the Marxists the work of economic and social reconstruction that is, and must be, essentially our own. Let me express the faith that we in the Philippines and in the rest of Asia will thus work out our destinies in peace and liberty.

I cannot, of course, speak for the rest of Asia, but I can say for my countrymen that we trust and hope that the new Asia we are all trying to create will not be deformed at birth and perverted by sinister doctrines into an image of the old Asia, that ancient, bent, shrunken Asia of the despot ages, turned by her impotence to deal with reality into brooding resignation and empty despair. Let us hope rather that we shall bring forth a new Asia invigorated by those high and spacious ideals of human freedom, dignity, and perfectibility that the forerunners of our independence shared with the noblest minds of Europe and America.

# LONDON NOTEBOOK

## Hiroshima Panels

Neither the speeches of politicians nor the pronouncements of church dignitaries, nor the resolution of committees in the past weeks have so deeply conveyed the horror and the tragedy of the atom bomb as a few paintings from Japan shown early last month in a small room at the College of Preceptors in Bloomsbury. The "Hiroshima Panels" are the grim and moving, but quiet and dignified, protest of two Japanese artists, Iri Maruki and his wife, Toshiko Akamatsu.

Only six panels have been completed so far, out of a series of ten depicting the drama of the first atom bomb, which killed 410,000 people and is still claiming victims, ten years after it was dropped on Hiroshima. The paintings are executed in Indian ink on Japanese rice paper, in a style that is a blend of traditional Japanese and western realism.

Representing the suffering of millions, these sensitive paintings come as ghosts haunting humanity's conscience. One of the panels, the first to be completed, is titled "The Ghosts." There the artists see a significant link between the ghosts of the ancient stories of Japan and the bomb victims of Hiroshima "refusing to accept their fate." It shows a large group of scarred and mutilated men and women in the nude, denoting, in the words of the artists, "an aggregation of congealed resentment, a suffocated and unuttered voice, expressing the flaring indignation that lies buried deep in the heart." On one side of the painting, an innocent baby lies, without a trace of burns. "Our wish," say the artists, "was that when peace is regained, this baby may rise to its feet once more and totter along, smiling and pretty."

A few thousand people saw these panels during the fortnight they were on view in London. They had been seen by 650,000 people in fifty-one towns and villages in

Japan and a further 1,400,000 people saw photographic exhibitions of the work. Three of the panels have reached Britain from Denmark, where they created a deep impression.

The exhibition was arranged here by Artists For Peace in the interests of world understanding and to help towards the total abolition of nuclear bombs. From London the paintings go to Coventry, where an exhibition is to be sponsored by the City Council and the Anti-Hydrogen Bomb League.

## "The Children of Hiroshima"

Another artistic contribution to peace comes to London in the form of a beautiful film, *The Children of Hiroshima*, at the Marble Arch Pavilion. Here, too, the underlying note is a sense of optimism, of hope. The tragedy of the Bomb is impressed effectively, but not horrifyingly. A school teacher arrives in Hiroshima, her birth place, from an island a few miles away. She finds her parents' grave amidst the rubble of a grave-strewn waste. She plants flowers. Her thoughts go back to that sunlit morning of August 6, 1945. The distant drone of an aeroplane. The lone silhouette appears above. The clock's second-hand jerks to 8.15. A blinding flash . . . A sunflower withers. Limbs contort. The shrieks of women. A blood-spattered torso. The frightening shadow on a step, of a man who rested there . . .

This is just a quick suggestion. The next moment we are in 1952, when the present story takes place. "The tragedy of the Bomb seems to be spreading," our heroine tells her friend. And as she goes out into the city, all rebuilt, she has glimpses of the heart-breaking drama that is still going on behind the walls of its homes and on the pavements of its back streets. She looks for

three of her pupils in the kindergarten. She finds one, a Christian, dying below a statuette of Christ on the Cross, another crying over the body of his father who has died of a "mysterious disease." The third, who is without parents, has a sister with a mutilated leg. She meets a blind beggar on the street, a former employee of her father, whose grandson, also without parents, is in an orphanage. She wants to take the boy away to her home, to look after him well. The old man agrees, reluctantly, then locks himself in his hut, gets drunk, and sets fire to the place.

As the girl and the child step on the boat to her island, they hear the drone of an aeroplane and look up in apprehension. The film is written and directed by Kaneto Shindo.

## Malay Sarongs

A set of sarongs from Trengganu held members of the Royal Asiatic Society under a spell the other day. They were from the collection of Mr. A. H. Hill, who was giving a talk on Malay sarongs, with three handsome Malay youths serving as models. Zahra Zeba, from Radio Malaya, who is doing a BBC course here, and Abbasiah Amirin from Selangor, a domestic science student, demonstrated how women wore the sarong, while Zahani Ahmad, an architecture student, showed the male version. From Mr. Hill the Royal Society members learnt that though both men and women wore the sarong, only women made them. They were astonished to know that the intricate designs of the sarong were woven without consulting any patterns. The weavers had the entire design in their mind.

## T'ang Exhibition

The arts and crafts of the T'ang Dynasty (A.D. 618-906), China's "Golden Age," are the subject of an exhibition organised by the Oriental Ceramic Society at the Arts Council Gallery in St. James's Square. China under the T'ang Dynasty was one of the greatest civilisations the world has ever seen. Its Capital at Ch'ang-an became a centre of culture for both the East and the West. Greeks, Arabs, Persians, Japanese and Indians mingled there and while taking Chinese culture back to their own countries, also made their own individual contributions and helped to create a powerful art during the period. The vigour of this epoch later became subdued during the Sung period and a more delicate art developed.

Some 400 items are seen at the exhibition, the collection of porcelain being the most outstanding among them. Porcelain itself was invented during the T'ang period—about a thousand years before its secrets were discovered by the West. It is the greatest single advance ever made in ceramics. It led to remarkable achievements in China during the T'ang and succeeding dynasties and, ultimately, to the manufacture of porcelain in Europe.

Also seen at the exhibition is an interesting group of tomb-figures, sculptures to accompany the dead to the quiet loneliness of the grave.



T'ang figurines

### Shell Photographs Exhibition

"Perla del Oriente" (Pearl of the Orient) was the old Spanish name for the Philippine Islands. This was the title of an exhibition of photographs presented by the Shell Petroleum Company at the Royal Geographical Society last month. The pictures really showed how well these islands deserved the name.

The magnificent photographs, a hundred in all, were selected from several hundreds taken by Shell's chief photographer Derrick Knight on a visit to the Philippines last year. They covered a wide field, presenting a panoramic view of the life and scenery of these beautiful islands, but the emphasis was on the rapid industrial development that has been a remarkable feature of the young republic's postwar progress.

This industrialisation was helped largely by the close links that the Philippines has had with the West, and the Philippine Ambassador, Mr. Leon Maria Guerrero, who opened the exhibition was right in comparing the foreign influence to the extraneous matter that intrudes into the flesh of the oyster stimulating it to form the pearl. "The Philippines absorbed western culture, overlaid it with its own native reactions, and produced the Pearl of the Orient." The Ambassador said that the Philippines were a symbol of the beauty that could come from friendship between East and West.

General Sir James Marshall-Cornwall, President of the Royal Geographical Society, was the host at the opening. Among the large number of distinguished guests was Mr. J. W. Platt, Managing Director of the Royal Dutch-Shell Group of oil companies.

### Two Indian Painters

Shiavax Chavda, one of the leading young artists of India, is now here for a six months' visit, his second one to England. The first was sixteen years ago, when he came to join the Slade. He took the Slade diploma in



*An Ifugao tribesman, Central Philippines (a Shell photograph)*

three years and afterwards spent a few months at the Grande Chaumiere in Paris.

Chavda will show some seventy of his new drawings and paintings at the A.I.A. gallery in June. He has portrayed various aspects of contemporary Indian life, but shows a

city a few years ago. Now after working in London and Paris he has gained new experience and his work shows greater maturity. His Christian background shows strongly in his work, as also the influence of the sunny West Coast of India from where he comes. As an example of Indo-European painting, Souza's work is highly interesting. He works mostly in Paris, where he has a permanent gallery of his own.

### China Impressions

Mr. H. J. Collar, a former Director of I.C.I. (China) Ltd., who recently led a group of British business men on a visit to Peking, gave his impressions to members of the China Association last month. He said that they saw in China a genuine desire to have close trade relations with Britain. The Chinese seemed to be even prepared to divert trade from Russia and other Communist countries if they could get the right help from the West for their development projects. The Chinese showed extreme friendliness and the members of the delegation were on the whole very favourably impressed.

### Broadcasting to Japan

The BBC broadcast, on its Japan Service one Sunday morning in March, a discussion between three Japanese post-graduate students and an Assistant Professor at a Tokyo University who are all at the moment studying in Oxford. The theme of the discussion, chaired by the Lecturer in Chinese and Japanese in Oxford, was higher education in England and, of course, particularly in Oxford. The general conclusion was one of qualified praise. The tutorial system they approved of, but considered that, questions of economics apart, it might even be slightly dangerous to try to introduce it to Japanese students, traditionally inured to spoon-feeding methods.



*"Drummer," by S. Chavda*

particular fondness for animals and dancers. His favourite model for ballet drawing is his wife, Khurshid Vajifdar, youngest of the three Vajifdar sisters, famous classical dancers. She was in London three years ago with an Indian ballet company. She and her sisters are now busy with a new ballet. Chavda and Khurshid live in Bombay.

Another Indian artist, F. N. Souza, has just had a very successful exhibition in London. Most of the twenty-odd paintings he showed at Gallery One in Litchfield Street were sold. Souza comes from the Portuguese colony of Goa. A student of the Bombay School of Art, he was prominent among the young "progressives" of that



*Painting by F. N. Souza*



It might come as something of a surprise to hear that all the Japanese taking part approved of the way time is spent in Oxford. In their view, there is no time wasted there!

The discussion was followed a week later by one in which Japanese studying in London took part.

#### Philippine Trade Mission

Last month's visit of a trade mission from the Philippines to Germany, France and

Sweden was a significant event in the country's economic progress. This was the first time that such a delegation has been sent abroad by the Philippines Government. Its object was to explore means of improving trade with European countries, but it is also expected to visit India and Pakistan on the way back.

The Philippine Republic's main exports are abaca (Manila hemp) and copra (dried coco-nut kernels). The country's chief

requirement from outside is heavy machinery.

The Philippine Ambassador in London, Mr. Guerrero, was the leader of this four-man delegation. The other members were Benito Legarda, Jr., a Harvard graduate who is an economic adviser to the Central Bank of Philippines, Felisberto Verano, a former Senator and a Vice-President of the Nacionalista Party (now in power), and Mr. Raymundo Villanueva, a government official.

## Letters to the Editor

### THE DECADENCE OF THE DEMOCRACIES

SIR,—A French scholar, M. Charpentier of Paris, has pointed out that "the decadence of the democracies," as exemplified by the prevailing anarchy in France, is no matter for surprise. "It has been a truism well known since Plato—a truism which Spinoza recalled." (See M. Charpentier's letter, published by *The Daily Telegraph* on March 2, 1955).

Plato was, of course, the disciple of Socrates who incurred the enmity of Athenian politicians by his denunciation of that "love of power" and "the party spirit" which demoralised the richest state in Europe in the fifth century B.C. Popular elections brought to the fore men who were orators and self-seekers, rather than philosophers and broad-minded citizens.

The root of the trouble is an inferior educational system. In the Western world the false teaching of history and education generally tends to promote competition rather than "the co-operative spirit." The result is that clever and strong-minded men prosper, and inequalities become more and more obvious. Spasmodic efforts to promote more charity, by denominational missions and by individual philanthropists, cannot alter the general pattern. For the Churches are themselves so impregnated by false notions that they are quite unable to provide a unifying moral force, such as might promote True Justice, the essential preliminary to Peace.

If the Churches were truly representative of the "Christianity" which they profess to teach, it is inconceivable that they would be unable to become united. But in their case, too, "love of power" and "the party spirit" still prevail among the hierarchy of each denomination.

What we have to reckon with in modern times is that Chinese civilisation, which lay dormant for many centuries, has evolved an educational system in which "self" is subordinated to "the common good." Its more violent expression may be described as "Confucianism with knobs on." Violence was not advocated by Confucius himself; but "revolt against unjust rulers" was

expressly justified by Hsuntze, a Chinese philosopher who re-interpreted the Confucian ethics in the third century B.C. (See *Hsuntze*, by H. H. Dubs).

Unless the western world can produce a Religion, or Code of Morals, comparable to that of modern China, western civilisation will come to grief sooner or later.

Yours, etc.,

C. E. COOKSON.

Worthing, Sussex.

### KOREA, CHINA AND FORMOSA

SIR,—If the Archangel Gabriel were to tell us that the Americans instigated Syngman Rhee to start the Korean war in order to provide them with a pretext for the seizure of Formosa Mr. Brian Gregory would doubtless find reasons for refusing to believe him. Mr. Gregory should read Trotter's *Instincts of the Herd in Peace and War* which has recently been re-published by the Oxford University Press.

Yours, etc.,

London, S.W.5.

J. T. PRATT.

### BOMB POLICY

SIR,—Though there is much truth in Mr. J. W. T. Cooper's article "Bomb Policy" he is surely wrong in saying that "to have the H-bomb will not make Britain more independent of American policy"? How can we follow a really independent policy so long as we must depend on the threat of American nuclear retaliation to deter Russia, with her far stronger conventional forces, from over-running Europe? Possession of the H-bomb will give us the power to deter the Russians ourselves, by threat of mutual destruction in the last resort if our freedom is at stake; and this independence will greatly increase our influence with the United States. Mr. Cooper quotes an Asian diplomat as saying, when he heard that Britain had decided to manufacture the H-bomb: "the UK must loosen her hold on America's coat tails now and get on the side of neutralised Asia." Exactly. It is evident that this diplomat realised what Mr. Cooper has missed: that only possession of the H-bomb can enable this country, with the support of India and the rest of the Commonwealth and the neutral nations of South-East Asia, to

embrace a policy different from that of the United States or sufficiently influence the latter to make her change or modify her own.

Yours, etc.,

LIEUT.-COL. H. R. PELLY.

Winchester, Hants.

### KASHMIR

SIR,—I was interested to read the excellent article on Kashmiri boatmen entitled "The People of the River," by Yvonne Hull, in your April, 1955, issue. She has given a graphic description of the life and manners of boatmen of the Jhelum river. The article, however, seems to convey the impression that the house-boat men are poorer and that the tourist trade of Kashmir is dwindling.

For the information of your readers and Mrs. Hull, I would give some figures of tourists to the Valley during the last four years which go to show how tourist traffic is a thriving industry of the State: 1949—3,000; 1950—6,700; 1951—10,000; 1952—13,000; 1953—15,000; 1954—more than 25,000. Last summer I visited Kashmir and found the principal holiday centres—Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam—unusually crowded. It was a record-breaking tourist season. Maybe princely visitors are scarce and less British and European tourists now visit the "Switzerland of the East." But the numbers of tourists are impressive and they are increasing every year. The economic condition of the masses, especially the boatmen and traders engaged in tourist trade, is better than ever before.

Yours, etc.,

London, N.

"CHANDRA KALA."

### OFFICE EFFICIENCY

SIR,—Your correspondent, in his article "Asia and Office Mechanisation," concludes by saying "in routine work the machine not only proves itself the faster worker but also the more accurate." While this may be true of the typewriter versus the inkbrush, he may not know that a recent contest was held in America between a highly competent operator using an adding machine (latest design) and a Chinese student using an abacus (design some two thousand years old, maybe more). The Chinese won every time. As the old Chinese saying goes: "You can catch a tiger by his whiskers, but it's quicker to grab his tail."

Yours, etc.,

Hong Kong.

S. K. LIM.



# FROM ALL QUARTERS

## American Aid to Japan

The Foreign Operations Administration has just concluded a technical cooperation agreement with Japan to give assistance in industry, agriculture and commerce. This is the first agreement FOA has concluded with Japan on an operating basis. It covers operations of a Japanese Productivity Centre for which FOA has allotted an initial \$200,000 with Japan contributing an equal amount. FOA has available a total of \$500,000 appropriated by the last Congress to begin the scheme.

The agreement is based on similar programmes operating in Europe under the Marshall Plan. It is designed to increase productivity which, it is hoped, will lead to an expansion of Japan's trade, particularly in the Far East. FOA will provide technical assistance and send American experts to work in Japan and numbers of Japanese industrialists and technicians will be sent to the US for training.

## Social Insurance in Burma

At the request of the Burmese Government, a mission of experts of the International Labour Organisation is to visit the country to help to implement the social security legislation which was recently approved by parliament.

The Bill was drafted with the assistance of an ILO expert and enacted by parliament within eight weeks of its presentation—a local record for any similar technical assistance project.

The legislation covers sickness insurance, maternity, injury and death benefits.

## Stevenson Museum

Two of Samoa's highest ranking chiefs, one from each of the large islands, have publicly called for the erection of a Robert Louis Stevenson museum in Apia.

Chief Lofipo, of Savai'i Island, said that the Samoans do not forget or disregard the memory of "Tusitala," but that their respect for him is "as high as the place where our forefathers buried him on Mount Vaea." He thought that the museum should be erected on the site of the old chief's houses in Apia, and housed in a large native dwelling.

## Prince Tungi of Tonga

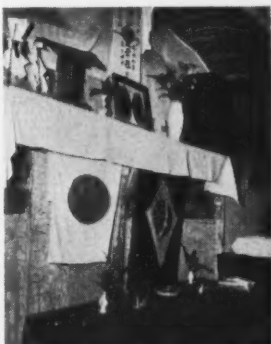
Prince Tungi, the 36-year-old Premier of Tonga, and also the eldest son of Queen Salote, arrived at The Hague last month for a three weeks' visit to Holland. The main purpose of his visit was the purchase of a 500-ton Dutch ship to be used for the copra trade between the 150 islands of the Tonga group. Asked about Tongan desires for independence, Prince Tungi said that his country had no desire for complete independence at present. He added "We can use the British Foreign Service for nothing as matters stand. If we were independent we should have to build up one of our own."

## JAPANESE SUICIDE SECT IN BRAZIL

IN Santo Andre, suburb of Sao Paulo, Brazil, in one of the world's strangest camps, 260 Japanese are impatiently training and waiting for the day when they can embark for the homeland and fight against "the Communist menace."

The patriotic-religious sect, which includes a hundred youngsters, styles itself the Sakuragumi Tei Shin Tai, or the Cherry-tree suicide battalion. Leader is Sadakatsu Fukazawa, who heads a council of six in control of the band.

The suicide battalion, somewhat an embarrassment to the Brazilian authorities, lives entirely secluded in hutments at Santo Andre and has resisted all efforts at dispersal. Here, they follow their religious rites and their semi-military training in readiness for the summons to Japan.



The altar, bearing the Japanese and Brazilian flags, in the camp at Santo Andre



Sadakatsu Fukazawa, leader of the Cherry-tree Suicide Brigade



Youngsters on parade at the Santo Andre camp



Women members of the Brigade prepare a meal in the makeshift kitchens at the camp

### Another Friend for Formosa

The instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Friendship between the Nationalist Government in Formosa and El Salvador were exchanged in Salvador recently. The Nationalist Government is planning further treaties with other countries of Central and South America.

### South Viet Nam Army

The Head of the American Advisory Group in South Viet Nam, General John O'Daniel, confirmed last month that the United States is organising an army of 100,000 strong in South Viet Nam.

He stated that by June, 1956, this army, consisting of 60,000 regulars and 40,000 conscripts, would be ready—one month before the general elections, which are to be held in July next year under the Geneva agreements. General O'Daniel also confirmed reports that the United States plan to lessen French influence in the army—since by July 1 this year, all French officers in the South Viet Nam army will have been replaced by American-trained Vietnamese officers. At present there are some 800 French instructors in the army.

### Transfer of Indian Installations in Tibet

A protocol was signed between India and China on April 1 in Lhasa about transferring to the Chinese Government the postal, telegraph, and telephone services and rest houses run in Tibet by the Indian Government. This was in accordance with the agreement signed in Peking a year ago. The services, together with their equipment, are being transferred without any compensation as a gesture of good will. The rest houses are being handed over at an agreed price which has been paid. The services and rest houses were established by India about 50 years ago. The transfer was celebrated with a banquet attended by Indian, Tibetan and Chinese officials.

### US Congress Committee Urges More Private Investment in Asia

A Special Congressional survey mission has made recommendations concerning the American Foreign Aid Programme, particularly with regard to the Far and Middle East. The Committee suggest that private capital financing in these areas should be accelerated and that substantial American aid, except for those nations who linked to defence arrangements with America, should cease. The report was made by Representative James Richards, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, and Representative John Vorys, a Republican member of the Committee, who headed the special mission. The two Congressmen visited the Far East last year.

### Japan-Ceylon Fishing Venture

Arrangements for a combined Japan-Ceylon fishing company were completed last month in Ceylon. The company has a capital of Rs. 600,000 contributed jointly by Ceylonese and Japanese shareholders. The trawlers, nets and other fishing gear will all come from Japan, and a freezing plant and canning factory will be installed after the arrival of Japanese technicians. A site for a boat-building yard has been selected in Negombo and Japanese boat builders will turn out boats with eight-cylinder engines, each capable of carrying one ton of fish and three fishermen. The company will fish 50 miles away from the coast of Ceylon—principally in the Bay of Bengal and in the Sumatra waters.

### President Rhee Gets US Medal of Freedom

President Syngman Rhee last month received the United States Medal of Freedom with Gold Palm for "meritorious

service since the outbreak of the Korean war for world peace and against Communism." General Hull, Commander of United Nations and United States Forces in the Far East, flew to Seoul from Tokyo to present the medal which was awarded by President Eisenhower. The citation says that Syngman Rhee has "aided the cause of universal democracy and has advanced the date when a united Korea will take its rightful place among the free nations of the world." In return, President Rhee gave General Hull the Medal of Tauguk with Gold Star.

### New Chief Justice of Singapore

The successor to Sir Charles Murray-Aynsley, Chief Justice of Singapore, who is about to retire, is to be Mr. John Whyatt, Q.C., Attorney-General, Kenya. Mr. Whyatt has spent many years in the East, first in Hong Kong, where he was Assistant Crown Solicitor, and later Crown Counsel. He was seconded in 1941 to act as Secretary to the Eastern Group Supply Council in India. He returned to Hong Kong in 1944 and worked with the Hong Kong Planning Unit at the Colonial Office, later being appointed Custodian of Enemy Property.

### India and Nuclear Weapons

The birth anniversary of Mahavir, preacher of Jainism, was celebrated at various places in India on April 5. Speaking on the occasion in New Delhi, Mr. Nehru said that the teachings of Mahavir assumed greater importance in the context of the present world situation. The threat to human existence by atom or hydrogen bombs could be met only by moral or spiritual strength. Mr. Nehru said that India herself was not threatened by the use of nuclear weapons as were some other countries but he pointed out that in a world conflagration nobody would be safe.

### Chukotka—Medical Services

Chukotka National Area, in the north-eastern extremity of the USSR, which had only two surgeon's assistants before the revolution, now has 82 medical institutions, including four urban and 14 village hospitals, and 51 dispensaries with a staff of 20 doctors and 80 other trained medical workers who came from other parts of the country. Medical specialists are now trained from among the local population.

A two-year medical school was opened last year for the training of nurses and surgeons' assistants. Children of fishermen, reindeer breeders, hunters and whalers are making good progress there.

### Tractors for Korea

The Korean People's Democratic Republic has received 240 tractors and great quantities of spare parts from the Soviet Union this year. Russian-made drills, winches, conveyors, centrifugal pumps, and electric motors are used in the ore and coal mines of North Korea.

Railway transport has also benefited from the same source, and Soviet machines and equipment such as cranes, bulldozers, excavators, steam-rollers, concrete pumps, etc., are widely employed in Pyongyang and other cities in North Korea.

### Geology in Kazakhstan

The programme of the Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR includes the despatch of 40 geology expeditions to different parts of the Republic by the Geology Institute. Forty-two parties are setting off for the virgin territories seeking local building resources and subterranean water resources. Soil scientists will work on soil fertility. There will be a total of 194 scientific expeditions this year.



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## BOOKS on the

**Imperial Communism** by ANTHONY T. BOUSCAREN (*Washington: Public Affairs Press, \$3.75*)

There are three possible explanations of Mr. Bouscaren: he is either a Communist who, by exposing Communist methods in a childishly unsubtle and unintelligent fashion, hopes to gain sympathy for Communism by a system of inversion, or he is a genuine nincompoop, or he is terribly, terribly, frightened. The latter seems the most likely, and as Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of San Francisco he is probably playing Hell with the intellects of his students by communicating that fear. There is no doubt that Communism is a ghastly nightmarish spectre to Professor Bouscaren, and that state of mind is not one in which a person should attempt an academic study of Communism and its effects in every country in the world.

Around his knowledge of world politics, his newspaper clippings and passages from books, he seems to have woven the most incredible fantasies. His attitude is of one who has embraced a fanatical religious faith—of one who has seen the light which he is convinced others have not seen, and like all those who overstep reason, he does not find it difficult to make facts mean exactly what he wants them to. To realise the dangers of Communism an intelligent person does not have to descend to such depths.

The professor's spectre appears in various guises in different places. In South-East Asia he sees Communism, not as an ideology the danger of which, as far as the western world is concerned, is its over-simplified appeal to the peasant, but as a horde pouring down from the mountain passes on the south China border with the object, *inter alia*, of bringing about the collapse of Burma and Siam. In Great Britain it is a creeping disease which is being spread from the mouths of Aneurin Bevan and Arthur Deakin. The fact that Mr. Bouscaren's horde has been pouring down the mountain passes since 1949 and has not yet brought about the collapse of Burma and Siam does not divert him, nor do the recent activities of Arthur Deakin, or the speeches of Bevan.

The serious student of world politics will find the book scarcely worth studying, but the keen psychoanalyst should find very fertile ground in the author's mind. It would be laughable if it was not so tragic.

J. W. T. COOPER

**Sowers of the Wind** by T. A. G. HUNGERFORD (*Angus and Robertson, 10s. 6d.*)

This purports to be a portrait in fiction—and one suspects at very many points that the fiction is thinly veiled—of immediate post-war Japan.

In one way, it is perhaps a good thing that the author has seen fit to get all this off his chest, for it provides the necessary counter to all the high-sounding and complacent official reports from SCAP, which seems to have hidden its head ostrich-like, and collected its information from lackeys who often did not understand the crying needs of their own people. In this respect, it is unfortunate that so many obvious facts from the author's experience have been put together in this form, and not in the more authoritative and sober medium of non-fiction.

The ennui of "occupationaires" is well expressed, and there is a damning exposé of the behaviour of men with pretty well nothing to do, and with little direction from the foremen, who in turn seemed to know little of what was expected of them. But there are, and were in 1946, other aspects of Japan well



## THE FAR EAST

worth weaving into the plot than the ever-recurring theme of sex, and the girl at every corner variations, which are blared out beyond the point at which the reader becomes disgusted—and I consider myself quite broad-minded!

The best part of this novel, which ends, as did the Occupation, with everyone concerned still unfulfilled, is the illustration of the dust-jacket—the torii of the shrine of Itsukushima astride a pair of geta, and (symbolic, perhaps?), a bush-hat.

And the author might have had some help with his Japanese!

G.B.

**Echoes from a Mountain School** edited by SEIKYO MUCHAKO  
(Tokyo: Kenkyusha Press)

The editor of this affecting selection of essays is a school-master in a remote mountain village in the Yamagata prefecture in the north of Japan. The school is a miserable, dilapidated building, utterly devoid of any kind of apparatus. There are no printed maps, no equipment for scientific study, no reference books—just the text-book for each lesson and nothing for the teacher but a piece of chalk and an ancient blackboard. Yet the children love their school and make heroic sacrifices to attend it. Mr. Muchako encouraged his pupils to write down their thoughts and ideas on life in general and on their own special problems—he tried to encourage them to make these compositions a real study in the social problems of their community, as the children themselves experienced them. So wholeheartedly did the children respond to this suggestion and so well did the results reflect their lives and surroundings, that it was decided to publish the best essays. The outcome is a book which goes straight to the heart of the reader—the simplicity of these compositions speaks more eloquently than any sociological study.

M. T.

**A Journey Through Toyland** by KAMALA S. DONGERKERY  
(Bombay: Popular Book Depot)

Most visitors to India have been enchanted with the clay or wood figures which are found in most parts of the country. Although similar toys have been made for centuries, they have kept most of their freshness and individuality to an amazing degree. These toys cover many aspects of Indian life—the characters portrayed range from petty traders to divine or mythological characters. They also vividly depict the costumes, ornaments and sect marks that once differentiated sections of Indian society. Animals and birds also figure prominently among Indian hand-made toys. They are brilliantly coloured, sometimes naturalistically, sometimes in a purely decorative manner.

The range and versatility of Indian toymakers have been fully appreciated by the author and although her treatment, with such a wide field at her disposal, is necessarily brief, it makes a pleasant introduction to the subject. The illustrations are clear and plentiful.

ANDREW WILSON

**Atlas of Islamic History** compiled by HARRY HAZARD (Princeton University Press. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, 48s.)

The third edition, with appropriate revisions, of a concentrated reference work on Islamic history. The population statistics have been amended to incorporate 1953 figures. Within its compass, an effective and easily comprehended source of information.

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The Nine Songs by ARTHUR WALEY (*Allen and Unwin*, 10s.)  
and

Poems of the Hundred Names by HENRY H. HART (*Stanford University Press, London: Geoffrey Cumberledge*, 20s.)

Dr. Waley's translation of the *Nine Songs* fulfils two major functions: it is the first definitive translation, in the author's inimitable style, of a part of the *Ch'u Tz'u* (*Elegies of Ch'u*), a work which is increasingly claiming the interest of the scholars of New China, part of whose work is now available in English translation. Again, there is an appeal to students of religion, for copious notes and commentaries, quite self-explanatory to the non-sinologue, treat of the text as a major source for the history and nature of shamanism in early China. The range of the references is very wide, particular attention being paid to the work of Japanese scholars in this field.

It is strange that Dr. Waley's writings on the *Odes*, or the *Book of Songs*, as well as those of Professor Karlgren—the two most notable contributions of recent years—are not cited in the re-edition of Henry H. Hart's *Poems of the Hundred Names*. One wonders why the 33 new translations, which are chosen from all periods, could not have been inserted at the appropriate place (the translations are placed chronologically), instead of being added, appendix-like, at the end. One would also like to know more about what Dr. Hart means when he describes part of his method as restoring "the text to its original form as far as possible." It might have been helpful to have explained some of the symbolic stock-in-trade of the Chinese poet—the lone pine, the single wild goose, and so on. Nor, as far as I can see, can the fact of the occurrence of phonetic changes subsequent to the writing of a poem, resulting in the loss of much of the original sound rhythm in present-day pronunciation, be advanced as a serious reason for the argument that the poems were originally not written primarily to be read aloud.

More care could have been taken over minor technical details; T'ang and Ch'ing have their apostrophes, but Chang An (sic) does not, and Tz'u Kung should not.

GEOFFREY BOWNAS

A Flight of Swans (Poems from Balaka), by RABINDRANATH TAGORE (*John Murray*, 5s.)

The Balaka poems are considered to be one of Tagore's masterpieces—and as the translator, Aurobindo Bose, points out, they formed a landmark in Bengali literature since they introduced new verse forms and because of the wide sweep of the thought implicit in the poems. They are infused with a spirit of revolt against old worn-out ideas. The same idealism which is found in the writings of Romain Rolland and the earlier writings of Bertrand Russell are voiced here by Tagore. To the reader today, when Tagore's popularity in the West has suffered a decline, the sentiments may seem almost commonplace, but, nevertheless, to read them in the form of these poems, with the unfamiliar images and impassioned intensity of spirit which they convey, is to recapture something of the essence behind Tagore's life and thought. The translation reads easily and retains much of the idiosyncracies of the original Bengali.

R. A.

Yearbook of International Organizations 1954/5 (*Brussels: Union of International Associations, Palais d'Egmont*, 70s.)

This is more than a yearbook—it shows how much good will does exist in the world today and what efforts are being made to overcome obstacles to friendly relations and constructive cooperation. Each of the 1,138 international organisations is fully described.

**The Bhagavadgita** translated by W. DOUGLAS P. HILL (Oxford University Press. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, 12s. 6d.)

First published in 1928, this translation is now re-issued in a slightly abridged and more readable form. Ample footnotes accompany the text—which still holds its own with more freely rendered translations.

**Concise Grammar of the Hindi Language** by H. C. SCHOLBERG (Oxford University Press. London: Geoffrey Cumberlege, 10s. 6d.)

A useful adjunct to written and oral work. The author has a wide knowledge of Hindi idiom and experience in teaching the language. The stress which is now being laid on the adoption of Hindi as the official language of India makes the re-issue of this book a timely one.

**A Glossary of Chinese Art and Archaeology** by S. HOWARD HANSFORD (*The China Society*, 15s.)

A handbook of technical terms which will meet the requirements of students and collectors. The glossary is addressed to readers of Chinese who require precise definitions of technical and conventional terms and also to those who are already familiar with Chinese arts and antiquities and who are studying the written language. The entries are arranged under subject headings, according to the categories into which the Chinese divide their art and antiquities. Numerous line drawings illustrate the text.

B. E. F.

**Education and the Significance of Life** by J. KRISHNAMURTI (Gollancz, 8s. 6d.)

"The right kind of education while encouraging the learning of a technique, should accomplish something which is of far greater importance: it should help man to experience the integrated process of life. It is experience that will put capacity and technique in their right place. . . . Throughout the world, engineers are frantically designing machines which do not need men to operate them. In a life run almost entirely by machines, what is to become of human beings?" So, in effect, says Krishnamurti, like Tagore before him, "let us keep our faith in the life that creates and not in the machine that constructs." Most thinking people sooner or later must feel the lack of harmony between the outer life and the inner. Some concentrate on improving the outer life, others—often under influence of ill-digested doctrines—on the inner. Yet to achieve the balanced life it is necessary to integrate both. In present times this seems almost impossible, yet Krishnamurti puts so many problems in their proper light, and gives such eminently reasoned solutions that no one who wishes to profit from his insight and analysis will be disappointed.

T.G.W.

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**Voyage to Bengal** by FRANK KNIGHT (*Macmillan*, 10s. 6d.)

In *The Summing Up* Somerset Maugham wrote that "the delight in listening to stories is as natural to human nature as the delight in looking at the dancing and miming out of which drama arose." It is also true that, in this age of neurosis and self-pity, the capacity for listening to and for reading stories unqualified by lengthy analyses of character and by microscopic subtleties of human behaviour is lost far too often in early life. But it can be rediscovered, as may be instanced by my own absorption in this well-written, vigorously told adventure story for boys. The book has an authentic historical background—that of the period of the last days of the East India Company's Charter—and though the incident by which the young hero finds himself by chance on one of Her Majesty's Indiamen, bound for Bengal, is improbable, it really does not matter. This reviewer, approaching middle age, intends to read Captain Knight's other highly praised novel, *The Golden Monkey*, as soon as possible. To use the oldest of old clichés, *Voyage to Bengal* is recommended to all boys between the ages of nine and ninety and to most girls too.

IAN LE MAISTRE

**Hokusai** : 46 Holzschnitte und Zeichnungen (*Munich* : R. Piper, Verlag, DM 2.50)

A beautifully produced little volume—the reproductions, in black and white, have been selected with great care and give a complete picture of the many styles used by Hokusai—the caricature, the simple line drawings—the classical studies of fruit, flowers and bamboo—the landscapes and mountain scenes with their detailed foregrounds—all show the scope of this most human of Japanese wood block artists. The Introduction gives a concise account of Hokusai's work and its ultimate influence on many European artists.

S.K.R.

**Learn to Talk Malay** by M. B. LEWIS (*Macmillan*, 6s. 6d.)

This course in Colloquial Malay is intended for beginners and for those who already have a working knowledge of the language, but who would like to widen their knowledge of Malay idiom. The lessons take the form of scenes centred around everyday happenings, and so give an opportunity of introducing the colourful idiom of Malay conversation.



The presentation of a \$1,000 cheque by the Director-General of Unesco, Dr. Luther Evans, to Sardar Khushwant Singh, of Unesco, who won the award for the "best work of fiction by a citizen of India" offered by the Grove Press of America. The prize-winning novel "*Mano Majra*," which has its background in the violent disturbances that accompanied the partition of India, will be published later this year. (Right to left) : Dr. Luther Evans, Sardar Khushwant Singh, Dr. Arcot L. Mudaliar, President of the Executive Board of Unesco.

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**E. GRAY & SON, Ltd.****12 & 14, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.1.****Telegraphic Address : "Materials, Smith, London"****India 1954, Annual Review** (*Information Service of India, London* : India House, 3s. 6d.)

When one thinks of an official publication, from any source whatsoever, one thinks of a dull, badly presented document designed for the express purpose of carrying information and putting it on record. This *Annual Review* is quite different. In the first place it looks attractive and is well laid out, but most important of all, its pictures are good and its articles are not just vehicles for conveying information but are, for the most part, genuinely interesting.

Every aspect of India during the last year is covered by articles, together with others on various historical and background subjects. Three shillings and sixpence is a cheap price to pay for such a wide perspective of one of the leading nations of present-day Asia.

In the first article, "Indian World View," Shiv Shastri gives an interpretation of India's historical, cultural and religious background in 13 pages. The only short exposition I have seen better than this was the one by Professor H. G. Rawlinson in *Indian Art* (1947), but he took 44 pages, and went into more detail. The round-up of India's part in world affairs suffers from being a little too crisp, but this part is supplemented by one of the most interesting and useful sections in the book : a selection of documents, both treaties and policy. The India-China Agreement on Tibet, signed in Peking a year ago, which embodies the five principles of co-existence so often mentioned, is printed in full. There is also the Indo-French Agreement on Settlements.

The impression one gets from the article by Dr. T. G. Menon on the progress of the five-year plan is that although things have gone well, they have not quite reached the ideal envisaged in the first conception. But, as the author points out, the "achievement so far attained is to be judged against the sombre background of India's weak economic position in the immediate postwar period."

It is interesting to see, in the article on "Success on the Food Front," that rice production for 1954 established a record with 27.1 million tons. This was due, in part, says the article, to the adoption of the Japanese method of cultivation in more than four million acres. Much has to be done in India with regard to housing, and O. N. Sheopuri says in his article on "Developments in Housing" that one of the factors responsible for housing shortage is the "scarcity of building materials, their high cost and wasteful use." More research is needed, says the writer, into building techniques and materials, and it will also be necessary to standardise building components.

The cultural articles are devoted to dancing, music, the documentary film, and one on "Modern Indian Fiction" by Mulk Raj Anand, who says that modern creative writers have a wealth of material to challenge their powers in the transition in India's history "and the conflict of values."

With the reasonably comprehensive economic facts and figures listed at the end, this annual review should have a wide appeal. One glaring omission, however, is disappointing : although there is an article on the Indian navy and one on the air force, there is not a mention of the Indian army.

J. W. T. COOPER

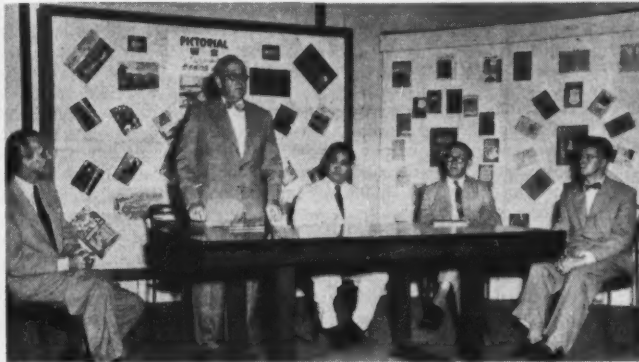


## EXHIBITION IN SINGAPORE

THE Exhibition of Book Jackets, which is the first of its kind to be held in Asia, was opened by Vernon Bartlett, who is now on the staff of the Straits Times, at Singapore on March 18.

Nearly 900 jackets were on view. They were arranged to show the application of the use of design, pictorial art, typography and photography to book jackets.

The Exhibition was held at the British Council Hall and



was organised by Mr. L. M. Harrod, Librarian of the Raffles Library, and Mr. W. J. Plumbe, an Assistant Librarian at the Library of the University of Malaya, for the Singapore Art Society.

Picture on the left shows (Straits Times photographs) Frank Sullivan of Radio Malaya, Vice-Chairman of the Singapore Art Society, Vernon Bartlett, Ho Kok Hoe, Chairman of the Singapore Art Society which presented the exhibition, L. M. Harrod, and W. J. Plumbe.

## REVIEW OF REVIEWS

"THE Japanese people feel cold. They shiver in the unaccustomed atmosphere of democratic institutions and individualistic ways of thought. They long for the warm surroundings of familiar traditional values, the old ideas they used to share in common." So observes Lily Abegg writing on current political trends in Japan in the April issue of *Foreign Affairs* (New York, quarterly). Democracy has not "taken" in Japan, according to the writer. She gives as the main reason for this the difficulty of the Japanese to consider himself as an individual and act as such. In spite of western inspirations dating back decades, Japanese traditions and Japanese education remain governed essentially by the spirit of collective rather than personal responsibility. The writer seems, however, wide of the mark when she takes the tradition of the head of the Japanese family to take all decisions after consulting its members as an example of "collectivism."

Conservative, ultra-nationalistic and reactionary trends are noticed in Japan today. The reaction to American attempts to democratise Japan seems to be a shift to the Right more than to the Left. "The millions that flock to the holy shrines make a more convincing impression than the strike of the 4,000 workers of Muroran and the pinkish students who make fun of the Emperor."

The strike at Muroran (Hokkaido) mentioned here took place last year in the Japanese Steel Works. The 4,000 workers were fighting against the dismissal of 900 of their colleagues. The strike lasted six and a half months. Labour leaders in Japan claim that this strike was a decisive point in the history of the Japanese Labour movement.

Labour disputes in Japan have tended in recent months to become more protracted and involved than in the past and the Labour movement has once again become the focal point of attention. A survey of current labour trends in Japan is contained in the February issue of the *Oriental Economist* (Tokyo, monthly). Although there has been a slight fall in the number of labour disputes lately, the facts of individual strikes point to increasing bitterness and strife. Numerous acts of violence have accompanied recent strikes. Some of the strikes last year have been extraordinarily lengthy. The Muroran Steel Works strike almost took the shape of a revolution, with the people of the town, including housewives and schoolchildren, joining the conflict in the final stages. Elsewhere in the same journal are some facts about the unemployment problem in Japan, which is

stated to be serious. The number of totally unemployed reached a postwar peak of 710,000 last August. There has been a slight improvement since then, but the figure at the end of last year (620,000) was still nearly double that at the same time in 1953.

The April issue of *The Muslim World* (Hartford, USA, quarterly), carries an informative article on the Ahmadiyya community of Pakistan. The author, Stanley E. Brush, traces the growth of the Ahmadiyya Movement, which has been involved in doctrinal disputes with the non-Ahmadi Muslim community ever since its founder, Mirza Gulam Ahmad of Qadian, made the claim to have received a new revelation from God. Two years ago this dispute took the form of a political agitation and led to widespread riots in Pakistan. The political repercussions of the agitation, which are still being felt, caused the downfall of the provincial Government of Mian Mumtaz Daultana and were influential in the replacement of Kwaja Nazimuddin as Prime Minister. Writing on the effect of Communism on the Ahmadiyya Movement, Mr. Brush makes certain interesting remarks on the impact of Communism on Islamic countries in general. He says that despite the belief that a strengthening of Islam and belief in God was an effective way of dealing with Communism, Muslim countries are still vulnerable to the infiltration of Communist ideas. At any rate, the kind of religious revival among the literate and the educated necessary for providing an effective barrier against Communism does not seem to be occurring in Pakistan. "Present educational patterns do little to stimulate a genuine interest in religious matters. Instead, scientific materialism, as an intellectual orientation, is gaining ascendancy."

*People's China* (Peking, fortnightly) prints some interesting facts about modern film tastes in China in its mid-February issue. Foreign films seem to be as big an attraction for the Chinese people as those of their own. Soviet films are said to be the most welcome. Last year 30 cities held a Soviet Film Week. Films from Eastern European countries are also popular. There also appears to be great interest in films produced by other Asian countries, especially India. The trade agreement signed with India last year provides for exchange of films. American films, which monopolised the Chinese screen for some 40 years, are not altogether boycotted. The preference is for "progressive" films and Charlie Chaplin has always been a great favourite. It is said that a number of obstacles, most of them artificially imposed, stand in the way of British and French pictures being shown in China.

*China Reconstructs* (Peking, monthly) regularly describes the

different aspects of life in new China. The March issue has an article on national minorities. China has some 35 million people belonging to these groups.

*The Singapore China Society's Annual* for 1954 has just reached us. It is a bilingual publication with articles in English and Chinese on political and cultural topics concerning the Malayan Chinese

community. A contribution by the Editor deals with some of the problems of translation, which is a vital bridge between the different cultures in Malaya. Malcolm Macdonald writes on Chinese pots. Collecting old porcelain has been a hobby with the Commissioner-General for South-East Asia since his undergraduate days in Oxford.

# THE ROLE OF BUDDHISM IN MODERN THAILAND

By our Bangkok Correspondent

*"The present and potential situations in Thailand can no more be estimated without reference to Buddhism than the affairs of mediaeval Europe can be understood in isolation from the Catholic Church"*—quoted from a recent article in the Thai press.

THE writer believes the following to be essential background material for the study (political or otherwise) of Thailand today. It concerns the place of Buddhism in this country, rather than the religion itself; but it necessarily includes a review of important Buddhist tenets and of "church" organisation.

To the westerner, Thailand is still somewhat a land of paradoxes. One of the most remarkable concerns religion; for, though by no stretch of imagination can the pleasure-loving Thais be called an especially religious people, in a sense religion plays as great a part in their national life as does Islam in the most frankly theocratic Muslim states. The number of temporary or permanent Buddhist monks is enormous; virtually every Thai male, from the King downwards, spends at least a small part of his life as a shaven-headed, saffron-robed member of the Buddhist Order, or Sangha. Equally paradoxical is the fact that, though the Buddhist Church keeps itself most scrupulously divorced from politics, its power and prestige make comparison with the Catholic Church in mediaeval Europe inevitable. It is not easy to decide how far this is due to the Government's deliberate use of religion as a bulwark against both Communism and social unrest, but it is probable that the traditional appeal of Buddhism itself plays the larger part.

Thailand, like Ceylon, Burma, Cambodia and Laos, belongs to the Southern or Hinayana School of Buddhism, which lays especial emphasis on the following aspects of the religion as a whole. Life can never be entirely divorced from suffering, unless by rigid self-control leading to total absence of selfish desire; such control cannot be fully achieved except by those who have exchanged the householder's cares for monastic peace. For those unable to separate themselves so completely from the world, it is sufficient in this life to cultivate a certain attitude best described as "harmlessness," which implies an unwillingness to interfere in the lives of others and a desire to help all those who *consent to be helped*. The ultimate goal of all Buddhists is Nirvana, a state of bliss attained after a long succession of reincarnations, during which the transitory nature of all phenomena, including the *self*, gradually becomes fully understood. Hence another paradox. If there is no soul, no real self, what reincarnates and what attains Nirvana? If B is merely the result of A and not A himself in a more advanced state, why do people, especially as they grow old, spend so much time and energy in acquiring merit for lives to come? How shall it benefit A if Y or Z enters Nirvana?

Needless to say, the average Thai does not concern himself with the logical implications of his faith. Like many Christians, he accepts it without close questioning. For him, Buddhism implies a kindly way of life, achieved by venerating the Buddha, the Dharma (the Teaching or Universal Truth) and the Sangha (Order of Monks), together with the acquirement of merit to benefit him in this and lives to come. It is believed that Truth is beyond any logic based on faulty sensory impressions; and that all paradoxes are ultimately resolved in moments of profound meditation during which the mind transcends the phenomenal world.

The Sangha was founded in the Buddha's lifetime, some 2,497 years ago. Monks were to throw off worldly cares and, retiring into

caves, jungles or mountain fastnesses, give themselves over to profound meditation. Later, laymen began building monasteries to shelter them during the long rainy season, and today, the majority live there nearly all the year round. These monasteries embody all that is finest in the arts of Buddhist countries, some of those in Thailand closely resembling royal palaces—but the lives of the monks are still controlled by a strict discipline aimed at providing a happy mean between self-mortification and self-indulgence. All, from the Patriarch to the humblest novice, wear identical garments of plain yellow cloth, devoid of any distinguishing marks of rank. All avoid luxurious beds and refrain from eating between noon and the following day. Property, other than half a dozen bare essentials, is held in common by the community. Monks are strictly enjoined not to touch money and cannot so much as travel by bus without a lad to carry the expense-money provided by the monastery.

A daily round of begging food is required of all monks not old or infirm. Soon after dawn, yellow-clad figures can be seen walking through the streets in solemn silence, carrying large iron bowls in which laymen, kneeling by their doorways, respectfully place offerings of food. Monks may not ask for food, nor express their thanks, nor refuse whatever is offered; they are enjoined to be perfectly indifferent to its taste and quality. Unless coming from an unusually lax monastery, they do in fact collect some four or five types of food indiscriminately mixed in the same bowl. Happily, little hardship falls upon the donors, owing to Thailand's super-abundance of rice, fish and vegetables.

Monastic discipline is strictly observed; cases of monks behaving badly or without proper dignity are very rare. Their day may be passed variously. They have certain ritualistic and social duties; some hours are passed in preaching or in solitary meditation; and much time is spent in the study of Pali scriptures, often with a view to preparing for successive examinations leading to promotion within the Order. These scriptures are more akin to philosophy and psychology than to "religion" in the Christian-Islamic sense of the word; nevertheless it cannot justly be said that Buddhism is so much "a way of life" as to be totally devoid of religious content. The key to it must be sought in mysticism rather than in dogma.

The Sangha is organised on the traditional Thai governmental model. Below the Supreme Patriarch come ecclesiastical officials corresponding to the civil service ranks of provincial governor, district magistrate and so on, down to the abbots and officials engaged in administering individual monasteries. Infringements of discipline are dealt with by a chapter of monks drawn from the offender's own monastery. If a crime is alleged, the police will not arrest a monk before he has been formally restored to lay status by his abbot, who will only take this step if he thinks the police charge reasonable. Though he is seldom called upon to perform this duty for criminals, there is no difficulty about restoring a monk's lay status, for it has always been the Thai custom for monks to return to lay life at will. Indeed, it could not be otherwise, since every Thai male expects to pass some part of his life as a monk, varying from a minimum of three months up to several years or a lifetime.

Generally, this moral duty is undertaken after the completion of a youth's education. Certain ceremonies are performed at home, after which the youth approaches the temple dressed in fine raiment and escorted by dancers and musicians—many of them cheerfully

drunk, since Buddhism does not expect laymen to be puritans, unless they choose of their own accord to follow certain precepts. The youth's period of monastic seclusion is intended to confirm him in his understanding and practice of his faith, and to enable him to contemplate existence from a wider viewpoint than can be attained in the midst of worldly responsibilities and cares.

Monasteries are found everywhere, even in remote hamlets; they vary in magnificence quite as much as the cathedrals and parish churches of Europe. In rural areas especially, they form the centres of social life. Until not so long ago, rural education was entirely conducted by monks; now, though the State has taken over this duty, schools are generally situated in temple compounds, as being the most convenient places and as traditionally associated with education. Four days in every month, the villagers attend sermons, usually simple moral homilies, and once a year there is a great festival, accompanied by music and dancing, which may last for days. While listening to sermons, the villagers sit comfortably on the floor, sipping tea, smoking and chewing betel-nut, for the Buddha is less a god to them than a perfected human being who broke the bonds of suffering and pointed the way to lasting happiness.

In Bangkok, public ceremonies—political, military or scholastic—are attended by a chapter of yellow-robed monks who chant appropriate scriptures. When the King takes part in some traditional ritual in the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, he does reverence to the Order. This public act of homage from a king to his subjects takes on special significance when it is remembered that he was not long ago regarded as little less than a god and that many country people still think of him thus.

All sorts of private or family occasions (with the exception of marriage) entail the feeding of several monks, the chanting of auspicious or admonitory scriptures, and the sprinkling of lustral water over those present. Such rites as this sprinkling of lustral water from a leafy wand are of Hindu origin and, at first sight, seem odd as performed by Buddhist monks, who are emphatically not priests (go-betweens carrying man's petitions to Heaven and Heaven's rewards or benefits to man). They believe in no God, no receiver of prayers or conferrer of benefits; but everywhere Buddhism has taken on some local colour, thereby gaining power over those unable to cope with its subtle philosophical doctrines. Provided rites entail no cruelty to animals or man, monks regard them as beneficial, if only for their psychological effect.

Though serious, long-faced, sin-conscious piety is unknown in Thailand, Buddhism does exercise a profound influence over everybody except a small minority of westernised intellectuals, business men and politicians. It inculcates a kind, charitable disposition and emphasises the individual's own responsibility for all his actions, the sweet or bitter fruits of which he will surely cull. Kindness is extended to animals, though now and then with unfortunate results for the recipient beasts, the Thais being so averse to killing that legislation permitting the extermination of starving, mange-ridden stray dogs took half a century to accomplish. (Sometimes dislike of killing is carried to such lengths that certain households object to the use of DDT against mosquitoes!) In spite of this, puritanism of other sorts does not flourish at all outside monastic circles. Buddhism teaches respect for the opinions of others, leniency towards their faults (strictly their own business) and, in general, a live-and-let-live attitude. To some

extent, its insistence on the transitory nature of all phenomena is responsible for the carefree generosity and spendthrift habits traditionally displayed by the Thais. The fact that very few commercial men in this country are Thais is no accident. In the North, less affected by the current westernisation, crimes against property (now frequent) are almost entirely a legacy of the Pacific War period; up to then they were very rare. Buddhism also accounts largely for the widespread apathy towards politics and a general willingness to accept whatever Government is in power as a necessary, not unbearable, evil—political movements, violent or otherwise, have generally been limited to quite a small number of more or less sophisticated persons, and coups d'état take the place of revolutions. Thus the religion adds to the social stability of a people already inclined to docility by the warmth of the climate, an abundance of food, and the very small number of possessions essential to comfort.

Modern-minded Thais have rather indiscriminately adopted the standards of the West, so one would expect some inner conflict between their religious convictions and, for example, their growing desire to take the nation's commerce (largely carried on by Chinese) into their own hands. In fact, such a conflict is scarcely visible, for most Thais do not have religious convictions. They just live in an "aura" of Buddhism which affects them, more or less, according to circumstances and to individual variations of character and training.

The Government is well aware of the value of Buddhism as a bulwark against social unrest, and especially against Communism. There are obvious advantages in the doctrine that present poverty is the inevitable result of evil-doing in past lives and that well-doing now will ensure future states of happiness. Doubtless this is one of the reasons why Buddhism has come to figure so largely at public ceremonials and in school-life. But there is also the drawback that a horror of killing does not make for military prowess, while docility towards one's Government implies apathy regarding its fate. Fortunately for the Government, consistency is not a Thai virtue; I have noticed that policemen or soldiers are troubled by doubts as to the ethics of their professions. Here no rock-foundation of religious dogma conditions lines of thought or argument. Nevertheless, the fundamental conflict does exist, even if it is seldom recognised as such. Hence Buddhism influences the doings of public and official bodies far less than it affects the behaviour of private individuals. How else? As the Christian nations long ago discovered, the application of true Christian (or Buddhist) ethics to government and public life would put a nation in the position of a forest hermit surrounded by ferocious jungle beasts without the slightest respect for his sanctity.

Buddhists have never considered fighting as a method for the propagation or defence of their religion. Nevertheless, the Thai people can be expected to make a forceful stand against the imposition of Communism from within or without, if only because they recognise in it a threat to the Buddhist Sangha. (At present, Communism here is largely confined to an unknown number of persons of Chinese or Vietnamese extraction.) On the other hand, the largely Buddhist-inspired apathy to politics and cheerful acceptance of whoever is in power must also be reckoned with. It offsets, to an extent difficult to calculate, the effect of the widespread apathy to political doctrines capable of undermining the power of Buddhism. Thus popular religion is responsible for both the strongest and the weakest places in the nation's armour.

## CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHINA TO FRENCH CIVILIZATION

By Thomas E. Ennis (West Virginia University, U.S.A.)

THE fascination of China for the French was centred in porcelain. Father Le Comte in his important work, *China of Today* (1699), mentions three kinds; the imperial yellow, the grey "crackly" which he considered the finest, and the type appealing most to the taste of Europe, the many coloured porcelain, "white, painted with figures of flowers, trees, and birds."

In the 17th century porcelain was considered a curiosity and displayed only in quantities in some of the large palaces of Versailles. It became a common household article about 1700 and was copied in Saxony, where walls and ceilings, tables and chairs, were made from porcelain. The great interest displayed was caused by the custom of drinking hot tea. There was a need for suitable tea-sets and it was natural that models were





(Left): Casket. Tortoiseshell encrusted with metal, mother of pearl and thin layers of horn. (Opposite page, left): Snuff Box Lid decorated in Chinese style. (Opposite page, right): Corner Cabinet. Wood with large lacquer panel. (All three photographs are reproduced by permission of the Trustees of the Wallace Collection).

found in one of the lands where tea was cultivated. The Chinese used cups without handles. Special ones were manufactured for the West and white porcelain often was ordered and painted in Europe for the parlours and dining rooms of the rich.

Chinese art was not limited to porcelain. An interest also was taken in lacquer. During the 17th century, complete Chinese lacquer cabinets were imported, mainly for the French court. The lacquer industry of France is connected with the Martin family and Robert Martin enjoyed the friendship of Madame La Pompadour who liked his graceful flower and bird decorations on dark lacquer backgrounds, taken from Chinese models. Pompadour gave him large orders in 1752 for her palace at Bellevue.

Lacquer was not only applied to house furniture but also to "sedan-chairs." The closed "sedan-chair" of Oriental pattern was introduced into Europe about 1600. In this age sharp distinctions marked the social classes and rank entered into the subject of "sedan-chairs." Special regulations regarding whom they might carry and what status their occupants must be were issued by the Government. Persons of high station were favoured by this new type of transportation. The Duchess of Namur, for example, was conveyed to her country house of Neuchatel every year in a chair. Forty French "coolies" followed in carts, ready to take their turns as bearers. In this way the duchess made a journey of 130 miles in about ten days.

In the Middle Ages silk was known to some of the church officials and nobility but it was not until the 17th century that there was a rapid increase in importations. In 1669 a French ship brought in a large cargo of Chinese silk. It was not long (1692) before "robes indiennes," skirts "a la Psyche" were popular. Sale books of the Company of the East Indies show that silks purchased in the Orient for 32,000 livres were sold in France for 97,000 livres. Paris became the centre for this commerce. From here, all the leading cities of the Continent were supplied with large doll manikins, dressed in every detail to exhibit the latest silk fashions.

The embroidering of silk received a new impetus from the Chinese. Patterns were transformed and multiplied with the aid of Chinese decorative forms. Gold and silver threads were used for the high colourings, taking the place of the smooth

sewing silk from Granada. The soft and clinging quality of the silks of the period are like those of China. The influence of the Chinese dyeing technique was evident as early as 1699. The Chinese taught the French how to produce cotton stuffs, dimity, muslin and their printing in fast colours. The dyeing of Chinese cloths was imitated and the printed satins included figures of men, animals, and birds, following the Chinese styles. In the matter of colours, French artists were enriched by the new materials introduced from China. There is the *Che-che*, the fruit of a leguminous Chinese plant which yielded an unusual yellow-gold colour. The so-called "Chinese green" was obtained from the bark of a Chinese thorn which preserved its sheen in the glare of artificial light. Akin to this is the *La-kao*, today produced from European thorns by the weavers of Lyons.

With its love for salon intimacy, French society was interested in making living rooms beautiful. Chinese wall-papers fitted into this aim. These papers were placed upon walls and screens in China. They were imported into France early in the 17th century, owing probably to the custom of sea captains pasting the cheap and colourful material upon cabin walls. Efforts were made in 1610 to produce wall-paper at Rouen, based upon models imported by the missionaries but it was the English who can be given the credit for the manufacture of a superior commodity. French painting also was given a Chinese touch. Watteau applied the delicate colours found in porcelains and silk. This is noticeable in the "Embarkation for the Island of Cythera," hanging in the Louvre. Watteau, furthermore, employed monochrome colourings to his backgrounds, one of the chief features of Chinese painting.

The Chinese influence was prominent in French architecture. The adoption of new structural elements was widespread. It was the beginning of the age of the "chinoiserie," the creation of pretty and dainty ornamental works. In the "chinoiserie" the exotic is accentuated, reserved for special purposes where gaiety of appearance was needed. No pleasure gardens were complete without their "Chinese pavilions" and "kiosques." On the roof of one Parisian hotel there was a small Chinese garden with two Chinese bridges spanning a tiny stream. Chinese forms are found in French interior architecture. The peculiar style of roof-window was created in a frame of Chinese origin. The builders of French homes took from the Chinese the style of bringing the rooms into as close a touch as possible with Nature by means of high window-like openings reaching to the ground.



The Oriental currents flowing westward changed the social life. This is seen in the Chinese "resorts" which were patronised by smart society. There was a "Chinese Cafe" which employed Chinese servants. A "redoute Chinois" was opened in 1781 in the Faubourg St. Laurent where Chinese fireworks were displayed. Among the amusements was a game, the "Jeu de bague Chinois," forerunner of the modern merry-go-round. Baths were opened, set among scenes from Chinese life. Gold-fish were stocked in the pools and artificial streams flowing through parks and gardens. The bizarre in the French mind was seen in the Parisian court balls and masquerades in which Chinese costumes were worn. These



garbs soon spread to the fairs and the boulevards. Chinese jokes invaded light opera and comedy. The Italian Comedians played for the first time in 1692 in the presence of the king, the five-act comedy of Reynard and Dufresny. The harlequin of this farce was a Chinese doctor and the scene was laid in a Chinese office. The growth of mechanisation, however, destroyed much of this love for things Chinese. The Oriental interest became merely an appendage of culture.

#### China and the Writers of France

The 18th century idealised Chinese thinkers as incorporated in the most famous of them all—Confucius. Jesuits returning from China brought tales of China with its fabulous social and political institutions. The learned fathers of the Society translated into Latin some of the books of Confucius in 1662. Confucius was regarded as the "master and oracle most learned alike in moral and in political philosophy." To the Jesuits, the Chinese philosophers were supreme, having discovered the "principles of natural law, which the ancient Chinese received from the children of Noah." The Chinese cult had its headquarters at the Sorbonne where many a Jesuit had Confucius accepting the same god as the Christians.

Father Le Comte in his *China of Today* (1699) expresses the feelings of his day in regard to the Orient and gives a special place to China. "The Siamese whose physiognomy is familiar to Frenchmen, and who of all those Indians have souls exactly corresponding to their bodies, are wont to say that when Heaven distributed the gifts of Nature, it gave to the French valour and the science of war, to the Dutch shrewdness in trade, to the English the art of navigation, to the Chinese skill in government, but to themselves, the Siamese, wisdom and understanding."

One of the most outstanding champions of China was Voltaire who as a pupil of the Jesuits had learned to admire that ancient empire. He wrote his famous *Essay upon General*

*History and Customs* (1756) to show that Chinese culture was more praiseworthy than that of the French. The antiquity of China impressed Voltaire as the most telling argument to prove to the French the poverty of their own civilisation. According to Voltaire, a definite picture of the Chinese had grown in the French mind. "They have perfected moral science and that is the first of sciences." He describes his *Orphan of China* as "the morals of Confucius in five acts." Elsewhere he writes that "the princes of Europe and the men of commerce have, in all the discoveries in the East, been in search of wealth alone, the philosophers have discovered there a new moral and physical world." Voltaire lauds Confucius when he says that "I have read his books with attention, I have made extracts from them; I found that they spoke only of the purest morality . . . He appeals only to virtue—he preaches no miracles, there is nothing in them of ridiculous allegory."

Voltaire was enthusiastic over the thought that the lofty sentiments of the Chinese sages had found an echo in responsible groups in the empire and had been realised in the ordering of the State. "One need not be obsessed with the merits of the Chinese to recognise at least that the organisation of their empire is in truth the best that the world ever has seen, and, moreover, the only one founded on paternal authority." Voltaire acknowledged the fact that in China the people were not enlightened but this concession justified his general view of society. "It has to be admitted that the people are as rascally as in our land, that they haggle as much as we do . . . that they, like ourselves, suffer from a number of silly prejudices, beliefs in talismans and astrology, as we did for so long." Yet, this ignorance, Voltaire believed, is forgotten when it is realised that the Chinese were content, like all wise men, to worship one god



only while Europe was divided between St. Thomas and St. Bonaventura, between John Calvin and Martin Luther. And this was the Europe daring to reproach China with being atheistic? "This inconsistency is quite worthy of us, on the one hand to rise in wrath against Boyle for thinking that a society of atheists probably might maintain itself, and on the other hand, to assert with equal vehemence that the wisest kingdom on earth is founded upon atheism."

There were others of the day who believed that only through the acceptance of the Chinese way of life could the future be made secure. There is Diderot, Helvetius, Quesnay. Francois Quesnay, "father of the Physiocrats," was regarded by many admirers as the "Confucius of Europe," because he had translated the *I-Ching* of the Chinese philosopher and in 1767 published his political views under the title of *The Despotism of China*. In this work the French writer advocated the precepts of ancient China concerning goodness which was capable of being taught and studied through investigations of the "natural laws." His theory of education was based upon this concept. He believed public instruction should be based upon "laws" leading to virtue. Quesnay regretted that "with the exception of China, the necessity of this institution, which is the foundation of government, has been ignored by all kingdoms." King Louis XV, in 1756, at Quesnay's suggestion, followed the example of the Chinese emperors and solemnly guided a plough

at the opening of the spring tilling. This act is the only public one undertaken but it shows at least that Chinese traditions were known at the court.

Quesnay valued education in the "natural laws" with China as the model. He praised the schools of the empire. According to his account, the mandarins assembled the people of the village twice monthly for instruction. Quesnay concludes from this custom that "it will be seen that in these small schools it is not, as generally with us, a mere matter of reading and writing, but that teaching is given at the same time which leads to knowledge. Thus in China the books which contain the fundamental laws of the State are in everybody's hands." It was in this, to him, perfect educational system that Quesnay saw China as the ideal State, in harmony with natural laws, "a State founded upon science and natural law, whose concrete development it represents."

The theory of taxation as worked out by Quesnay was based upon Chinese traditional principles. "The sum which has to be paid in taxation by the subjects of the Emperor is in proportion to the extent of their landed property, account being taken of the quality of the land; for some time past, it is only the owners of land who pay taxes, and not those merely who till the soil." This procedure was taken up by Henry George, the American, in the 19th century and became the key-stone of his single-tax theory.

## LANGUAGE, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN CEYLON

By T. L. Green (Colombo)

**P**OLITICAL independence in Ceylon led to a resurgent national sentiment in which the desire to foster the use of the indigenous language is a marked factor. For nearly ten years now "the language problem" has held a prominent place in every political, social and educational discussion and what is taking place is not without significance for other countries in South-East Asia. In these, as in Ceylon, the situation is complicated by ethnic and linguistic diversity, by the adoption of a European tongue during a foreign overlordship, by a growing sense of political power among previously underprivileged classes and by an urgent need to retain, and even develop, world contacts.

Of a total Ceylonese population of little less than eight million about one-fifth speak Tamil and the remainder Sinhalese. Just over half are literate in one or other national languages and under one-tenth in English, the latter including the Burghers who, though of Portuguese and Dutch ancestry, have adopted English as a sign of European origin—however remote. The followers of Islam (Ceylon Moors and Malays) have also turned to English, though the Burghers speak Sinhalese and the Muslims Tamil—and to a less extent Sinhalese. Tamil is of Dravidian origin, Sinhalese is a Sanskrit tongue; the scripts are different—and complex. Tamil is spoken by over forty million in South India, Malaya and East Africa, but Sinhalese is spoken nowhere else. Tamil has an extensive modern literature, ranging into the fields of arts and sciences, Sinhalese has a very restricted modern literature. Both have classical literatures of considerable antiquity.

Since the coming of the English to Ceylon their language slowly became the badge of an elite, for to them alone was

governmental office and employment, even at humble level, open. So strong was the effect of English education that there arose a powerful social class not only knowing little of their own language and culture—but even despising them. In the struggle for political domination which followed Independence the promise to make English education available to the rural people and the urban under-privileged was seen as a vote-catching bait. The ascendant United National Party found itself committed to the provision of English education in a network of new rural Government Central Schools, which had to be built within a framework which made education free from kindergarten to university. Thus, in the first few years of Independence, children who received their early education in the vernacular were compelled to change to English at Standard VI. Inadequate early teaching meant that many stagnated for two to four years while they struggled to acquire enough English to progress into new academic subjects.

Growing political awareness among the masses, the wide realisation that the country lacked the teachers to implement the English education scheme, and the continued demand for English as the criterion of all economically desirable employment brought a new phase. There grew up a demand for a greater use of the vernaculars (the "Swabhasha"—conveniently "our own tongue"). A series of national commissions has sat to consider how, and in what stages, the National Language Policy should be implemented. Thus Ceylon has been involved in a series of wide, and often wild, discussions and arguments, in which the influence of political expediency and sectional interests have been sometimes more obvious than that of economic possibility or social desirability. It must not be thought that none is sincere in an aim which must command the respect of all who wish to see a once subject people achieve a real inde-

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pendence. Nor must it be thought that solution of the problems involved can be easy—for that is far from the truth. Nor should those in Ceylon fail to notice that there is growing up a sense not only of bewilderment, but of frustration, both leading to a cynical lack of faith in the future—a regrettable and dangerous trend when a country so sub-culturally divided as Ceylon needs, above all, a sense of flourishing nation-hood.

The relationship between language policy and national unity was one of the earliest problems to be discussed and, for those honest enough to admit it, this is still the deepest and most thorny problem. There are two major groups in Ceylon, divided by blood, religion and speech. For some of them, the English language is their only bond and these are a minority, for still fewer are bilingual in Sinhalese and Tamil. The first signs of segregation in schools, in accordance with the Swabhasha policy, led to a widespread cry that it would foster communalism. This, indeed, was claimed by the Principal of the largest Government Boys' School in the presence of H.E. the Governor-General. Forthwith the Honourable Minister of Education denied the existence of any such communal division. The writer was able to demonstrate that such inter group tension did exist. Research, however, is ever far from the field of planning—which proceeded.

While experience showed that lack of English could be a barrier to scholastic progress, and though research by the writer's colleagues showed that in the early stages pupils made better progress in science and mathematics if taught in the vernaculars—legislation demanded that these continue to be taught in English! On the other hand an overhasty pressure for teaching in the vernaculars has led to problems because there are few books in these for higher stage work—and too few teachers able to teach in their mother tongues!

The economics of book production provide other problems. The potential Tamil market greatly exceeds the Sinhalese one in which, for example, it is reliably stated by publishers that the Sinhalese who lack English education also lack the means and interest to buy books. Even at the top levels among the educated, who have Sinhalese culture at heart (and who usually have English education), the potential sales figure for a "serious" book, outside school texts, is an edition of two thousand—in either English or Sinhalese; for university text-books it is far more limited.

Even in other ways there are difficulties. Terminology and vocabulary have to be developed, accepted and known, and authors have to be found who know both a subject and the language it is to be written in. If publishers will not accept risks—neither will authors! Thus there is not only a shortage of vernacular books of serious level, but of school texts and even more so of that rich field of background reading which plays so important a part in the informal education of the western child and adult. The significance of this background material as a factor in social progress is too often overlooked—though most of us are aware of the positive value to children of coming from a cultural background rich in books and ideas. The vast majority of Ceylon's rural population, and even a quarter of the people of the capital city, are illiterate. It is to these that attention must be given in the search for social progress, so that achieving some degree of literacy is a first need—followed by the production of materials to read in order to retain literacy. School texts, newspapers and serious reading need to be backed up with "popular" materials which will influence attitudes, as well as provide information—and until attitudes can be influenced, new information and new techniques will not be fully accepted, and social progress delayed.

Some of the difficulties could be reduced, for example, by

abandoning the Pali, Sanskrit and Tamil characters and using Roman script. Such a proposal, however, is not merely rejected, but howled down, though the Pali Text Society has for long shown it to be possible. Incidentally, this would simplify shorthand, typing and printing, and thus speed production and reduce costs.

The major task, of course, is to clarify policy. Some clear shape is beginning to emerge, but it is concerned mostly with what is to be done in schools. Two big problems are left untouched. The first is that of university education. There is in Ceylon one university, using English as medium of instruction and study. What is to happen when freshmen come up for whom English is a second language—and who will need to study and be taught in the two vernaculars? If their English is insufficient the academic standards will fall, because economic factors will prevent the development of an adequate literature in Sinhalese. In Tamil, for some subjects this may not happen, because the market is large enough to make book production possible—as some Indian universities would claim to have shown already.

The second problem is the basic one, and the most difficult and dangerous. Is there to be one official language, and, if so, which? The Tamils already feel that their own culture is threatened by the potential adoption of Sinhalese as the single State language. If this is in fact done it will have serious repercussions—but can Ceylon afford the costs of the duplication of staff and publications which a dual language policy would necessitate? The very fact that official sources now talk of "English as a compulsory second language" does not reassure the Tamils. Is there not some justification for believing that it would be more conducive to mutual respect and national solidarity if the two linguistic groups could meet each other through mutual knowledge of their own tongues—not that of a foreigner? The writer has mooted this several times in past years, but not until this year has it received serious notice. Now the Principal of one of the big schools has laid down a policy of tri-lingualism, reciprocal Sinhalese and Tamil, and English third. The Principal concerned, be it noted, is the Muslim head of a Muslim school.

Faced with so many difficulties and conflicting claims it is not surprising that many Ceylonese feel frustrated. Not only are the Tamils alarmed, but so, too, are the Burghers. Many have been heard to say "We have no future in this country"—hence the constant stream of Burgher emigration, especially to Australia. But among both Sinhalese and Tamils of the English-educated classes, especially among the wealthier, there is an even greater sense of despair. Despite past history, English thought and culture rank high among such people, indeed, one hears them refer to England as "home" on occasion. This is the group which, holding hard to what a knowledge of English has given to them in cultural terms, is most concerned about the whole position. In social terms they see a threat to Ceylon's contact with the outside world which, with narrowing interests and the falling standards they anticipate, can only slow down social progress.

As individuals they are concerned about their children whose education is suffering and who, they say, are being used as "guinea pigs" in dubious and unplanned experimentation. Among them, those, who can afford it, are sending their sons and daughters to schools and universities in England. This very action has repercussions. Those who cannot afford this see the action as reprehensible and cynical—because some of the well-to-do power group have, for political reasons, pressed the National Language Policy, and those boys and girls who go abroad for education are likely to come back to find themselves strangers in their own land.



# ECONOMIC SECTION

## UK TRADE WITH CHINA

By A. James

**B** RITISH exports to China have been increasing steadily during the last three years, but are still on a comparatively low level, particularly if one considers the requirements of this market and the strong interest shown by British manufacturers and exporters in trade with China. UK direct exports to China developed as follows: 1952—£4,541,249; 1953—£6,161,372; 1954—£6,825,811 and during the first two months of 1955 their value amounted to £1,024,494 as against £666,626 during the corresponding period of 1954.

Since the recent visit to Peking by a group of British and Hong Kong business men, organised by the Sino-British Trade Committee (see February and April issues of *EASTERN WORLD*), another group of 24 spent nearly three weeks last February in Peking. This group included executives of firms who had already visited Peking during the last few years, and was led by Mr. J. A. Blott, vice-chairman of Barrow, Hepburn and Gale Ltd. Among the firms represented were: Associated British Engineering Ltd., The Standard Motor Co. Ltd., Forrestal Land Timber and Railways Co. Ltd., Rubery Owen and Co. Ltd., Biddle Sawyer and Co. Ltd., British Resin Products Ltd., The China Engineers Ltd., Dominion Export Co. Ltd., Evans Medical Supplies Ltd., M. D. Ewart and Co. Ltd., H. M. F. Faure Ltd., Harrisons (London) Ltd., Hirsch Son and Rhodes Ltd., London Export Corporation Ltd., Millspaugh Ltd., Oilcakes and Oilseeds Trading Co. Ltd., The Propane Co. Ltd. In addition the group represented indirectly some 250 British manufacturers, and contracts to the value of £4m. (approximately equally divided between import and export contracts) were signed.

In April, yet another party, again organised by the Sino-British Trade Committee, visited Peking. It was led by Mr. S. A. Lane of the Brush Group Ltd., and included representatives of Arnhold Trading Co. Ltd., Bailey Meters Controls Ltd., Davie Boag and Co. Ltd., Imperial Chemicals Ltd., A. Klauber and Son (London) Ltd., May and Baker Ltd., Simpkin Marshall and Co., Swire and MacLaine Ltd., C. Tennant Sons and Co. Ltd.

Visits by further groups of business men are to follow shortly. In fact, the number of British firms who would like to send their representatives to China is much greater than the actual number of visitors. While some UK firms would prefer individual visits, the Chinese authorities still like it better to arrange them on a group basis. This attitude differs from the practice of East European countries, whose state trade organisations regularly receive individual representatives of western firms. Some British companies would also be interested in having resident representatives (Chinese or Europeans) in China. There are rumours in the City of London that some Hong Kong firms are anxious to reopen offices in China in order to maintain regular contacts with the China National Import and Export Corporation on the spot.

There is no doubt that all the efforts by UK firms to promote

trade with China are of great importance; as every export order secured in the face of growing foreign competition, greatly assists Britain's national economy. Yet all these endeavours are bound to have only very limited immediate results as long as the present embargo regulations prevail. UK business men are bewildered by the force of these restrictions which are contradictory to any common sense. Mr. Woodrow Wyatt, M.P., recently drew the attention of the President of the Board of Trade to the fact that while commodities like phenol and glycerine are on the embargo list, China was offering these goods for sale to this country. Mr. Wyatt mentioned that "recently we held up in Hong Kong a consignment of glycerine from China for three weeks because it was on the embargo list." There are other reports that China has been offering and has actually exported phenol to West European countries. The other absurd aspect of the regulations (which was already referred to in past issues of *EASTERN WORLD*) is that many goods which can be imported by East European countries from the West and then be re-exported to China, are still on the embargo list for direct shipments to China.

There is also a long-term factor involved in this question. The Chinese are well aware of the fact that British industry could supply many goods they require, in the desired quality and at economical prices. But the Chinese must be able to order these goods, which they need for the development of their economy, now or they will have to rely completely on the supply from East European countries or be forced to start their own production of these goods. In this case the future prospects of selling such commodities to China when eventually the embargo will be lifted will be bleak indeed.

During the recent visits by British business men to Peking, the Chinese authorities offered a number of goods for direct export to Britain, including newsprint, plywood, tea, canned meats and fruit, coal, tar products, soda ash, various minerals, chemicals, furs, camel hair and many other traditional Chinese export products. UK imports of some of these goods on a large scale would be in the mutual interest of both countries, but it is clear that only a two-way trade would provide a proper basis for the rapid development of commercial relations, and that the immediate lifting of the anomalous restrictions is essential.

It is estimated that at present 75-80 per cent. of China's total foreign trade is conducted with the Soviet Union and the countries of East Europe. All the trade agreements for 1955 concluded between China and these countries indicate an increased trade as against the last year. The agreement with Czechoslovakia signed in April provides for Czechoslovak exports of complete installations for industrial enterprises, machinery, motor-cars and industrial chemicals in exchange for Chinese exports of vegetable oils, minerals, livestock products, foodstuffs and tea. During the Leipzig Fair China concluded numerous large contracts with countries of East Europe. Eastern Germany is to supply China with two express trains and 28 bogies. The East German Waggonbau factory in Dessau is to build refrigerator trains, while the Traktorenwerk Brandenburg exported a few weeks ago tracked tractors to China.

The 1954 British exports to China included 72,577 centals of wool tops valued at £3,338,967 (as against 62,148 centals—£3.1m. in 1953) and represented approximately 10 per cent. of UK total exports of wool tops. During the first two months of 1955 the UK wool tops exports amounted to the value of £415,097 as against £222,145 during the corresponding period of 1954.

United Kingdom machinery exports (other than electric) to China were valued at approximately £0.9m. in 1953 and 1954,

## MR. SHIH CHI-ANG KILLED IN AIR CRASH

Mr. Shih Chi-ang, Vice-Director of the China National Import and Export Corporation, was one of the victims in the disaster caused by the crash of the Air India plane on its way from Hong Kong to Indonesia.

Mr. Shih is well remembered in Britain, as one of the leaders, together with Mr. Tsao Chung-shu, of the Chinese Trade Mission to the United Kingdom in June of last year. He was a member of the Chinese Delegation to the International Economic Conference in Moscow, and later took over the Berlin office of the CNIEC. He was also a member of the Delegation at Geneva, where he assisted Mr. Lei Jen-min, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade.

Mr. Roland Berger, Director of the British Council for the Promotion of International Trade, wrote to us as follows: "Mr. Shih Chi-ang had an outstanding grasp of the problems of Sino-British trade, and his death will be a very considerable loss. Scores of British business men looked upon him as a friend as well as a business associate, and those of us who knew him well are appalled at the disaster."

but dropped to £43,649 during the first two months of 1955 (as against £168,507 during the corresponding period of 1954).

Chemicals occupy an important place in Britain's exports to China. The value of these exports increased from £846,667 in 1953 to £1,469,187 in 1954. During the first two months of 1955 they reached the value of £436,918 (as against £122,038 during the first two months of 1954) and amounted to over 1 per cent. of the total exports of this very important export industry of Great Britain.

The importance of China as a market for chemicals in the past can be seen from the following statistics, which were contained in the UN publication *A Study of Trade between Asia and Europe*.

In 1928, China's share of chemical exports by 11 European

countries to the ECAFE Region, comprising India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Malaya, Indonesia, Indo-China, Thailand, Philippines, Hong Kong and China, was US \$34.7m. (at constant 1950 prices) or approximately one-third of the total chemical exports to that region (US \$106.1m.). In addition, during the same year US exports to that region amounted to \$23.6m., out of which China's share was \$6.5m. In 1938, the same European countries exported to the whole region chemicals to the value of \$86.5m., including to China \$14.2m., and the US exports amounted to \$24.9m., including to China \$2.6m. In 1949-51 European exports of chemicals to the whole region were worth \$139.1m., including to China \$11.1m., and US chemical exports to the entire region \$112.9m., including those to China \$4.5m.

The following table shows the participation of the 11 European countries in the export of chemicals to China:

	1928	1938	1949-51
<i>(all figures in million US dollars at constant 1950 prices)</i>			
United Kingdom ...	6.0	1.0	0.8
Belgium-Luxemburg	0.3	0.5	2.4
France ...	1.6	1.4	0.4
Western Germany ...	22.4	9.8	3.1
Italy ...	—	0.1	—
Netherlands ...	0.6	0.3	0.2
Switzerland ...	3.9	1.1	2.9

The exports of chemicals from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden were insignificant.

Taking into consideration the historical experience that economic development leads to a great increase of consumption of chemicals which are required in the production processes of various industries as well as in agriculture, one can safely assume that China's requirements of chemicals will grow steadily in the years to come, and that even with the building up of her own chemical industry China will be an important market for chemicals in the future—a market in which many countries will compete.

## Company Report.

### BRITISH-AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANY

#### EXPANSION MAINTAINED

THE fifty-second annual general meeting of the British-American Tobacco Company, Ltd., was held on April 15 in London.

Mr. D. M. Oppenheim (the chairman), said that he thought the position disclosed by the accounts gave cause for satisfaction and continuing confidence in the fortunes of the company. The company's activities could roughly be classified under two heads. First, there was its own production in this country of the many well-known brands of cigarettes and smoking tobaccos owned by the company for export and for sea and air stores, and the sale of that production to many widely scattered markets overseas. Secondly, there was the investment in subsidiary and associated companies operating in almost every territory abroad still open to private enterprise. It was in this

sector of the Company's business that the significant expansion was taking place. The field was very wide and varied both as regarded the nature of the business and competitive relationship. It might be most misleading to stockholders to select one or even several of those territories for more detailed information. What must ultimately concern the stockholders was the global result.

This year he was addressing stockholders before the date on which the Chancellor of the Exchequer was to present his Budget and he was, of course, unable to foresee what he might have in store for them as a company and as individuals. However, he was certain that the heavy burden of United Kingdom and Overseas taxation to which the Group was subject—the figure fell just short of £24 million as expressed in sterling—would not have escaped notice.

All who had seriously and conscientiously in mind the continuing welfare of the country and its inhabitants must agree that excessive taxation had a deadening and frustrating influence on initiative and enterprise, and yet it was largely by the exercise

of those two attributes that they could hope not only to maintain but to improve the standard of living.

The future prospects of a company were never accurately predictable. At the Annual General Meeting last year he had mentioned that the total volume of sales of the Group for the first six months of the year to September 30, 1954, had continued to expand. The expansion was, in the final result, maintained to the end of that year and had continued for the first six months' trading of the current financial year. That pointed to the possibility of a new record volume of sales for the Group during the current year. Given fair trading opportunities wherever the Company and its associates operated and no major international upheaval, he predicted that the results for the current year would be at least as satisfactory as those of the year they had just reviewed.

The report was adopted and a final dividend of 8d. per 10s. Ordinary Stock (free of United Kingdom Income Tax) was approved.

# NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ITALY'S FAR EASTERN TRADE

*By Alvise Scarfoglio (Rome)*

**A** FEW weeks ago the news was circulating in Leftist Press circles in Rome that a commercial delegation from People's China would soon visit Italy. The report found no confirmation. Italian business men of various classes, however, have begun to take the initiative in trading with China by forming, from industrial and commercial firms who have already had some experience in Far Eastern trade, an organisation known as "Fedecina." It is not intended that this should be a profit-making society, and the founders do not aim at building up a "China company." It is rather a class union, aimed at the defence of common interests. These interests range over a wide area, from encouragement to Italian industrialists to sell their products in the Chinese market, to solutions of political and administrative problems. These latter create the greatest and most urgent difficulties.

Their origin lies in Italy's present general foreign policy, and in the hesitation of the Italian Government to take any step that might make it swerve, even the smallest amount, from loyalty to the Atlantic Pact. It is true that the Government has felt that something had to be done by way of opening up trade relations with Asian countries. So far, this exigency seems to have been met more by giving formal acknowledgement to the pressure that has been brought to bear on it by economic circles, than by producing real solutions.

The best the Government has done in the field of Far Eastern trade is to hand over the responsibility for it to a State company, the SPEI, which is controlled by the ARAR—a corporation created for the sale of American war surplus goods. The ARAR has worked in close cooperation with American authorities, and the connection has not altogether been broken even though the agency's activities are almost completely

concluded. Its offices and organisation remain intact for some reason which is not entirely clear.

An arrangement such as this would give the Italian Government complete control over the trade, and the NATO authorities would have a loophole through which they could keep strict watch over it. Neither of these eventualities is commendable to the powerful business interests in the country, whose primary intention is to increase Italy's trade with the Far East in the least burdensome fashion. These business men are headed by the president of Italy's most powerful management organisation, the "Confindustria" (Confederazione generale dell'Industria). As president of the "Assolombarda" (Lombard section of the "Confindustria"), a position from which he has only recently risen to his present rank, he sponsored the birth of "Fedecina."

A certain amount of trade with China has been carried for more than two and a half years, and the China National Export and Import Corporation has a regular agent in Italy—a private firm named Comet. The Istituto per il Commercio Estero, Italy's most powerful private collective foreign trade agency, deals with the clearing operations connected with it, and negotiations between the Chinese Corporation and Italian exporters are direct.

Italy's import items are: Oil seeds, rhubarb, eggs and egg products, and various colouring materials, while her largest exports consist of chemicals, colouring products, pharmaceuticals, and artificial fibres. The chances for an enlargement of the total volume of the trade, and for additions to the list of items are many, though the storms looming over the political horizon seem to come in the way of a commerce which otherwise would develop on routes created by geography, and sanctified by history.

# INDIA'S LEAD IN SOILLESS CULTIVATION

*By J. W. E. H. Sholto Douglas (Bombay)*

**I**NDIA is, on the whole, backward in the agricultural and horticultural fields, and it may therefore come as a surprise to many people to learn that so far as soilless cultivation of crops is concerned, she has actually taken the lead. During the past seven years a considerable amount of research into the various aspects of hydroponics—as the technique of growing plants without soil is generally known—has taken place in Bengal. Simplified systems have been evolved, which can be operated by any ordinary peasant cultivator, or amateur gardener. A very large interest in the progress of hydroponic cultures is being shown by the public, and thousands of hydroponicums are functioning all over the sub-continent.

One of the most important factors in stimulating this extraordinary extension of soilless crop growing in India has been the necessity of increasing vegetable production around the large towns, in urban areas, and in places where conventional methods of agriculture are quite impracticable, such as deserts, rocky localities, or barren regions. The rapidly increasing population, which will total five hundred million persons by the year 1990, means that urgent measures must be taken to provide for extra food supplies if disaster is to be

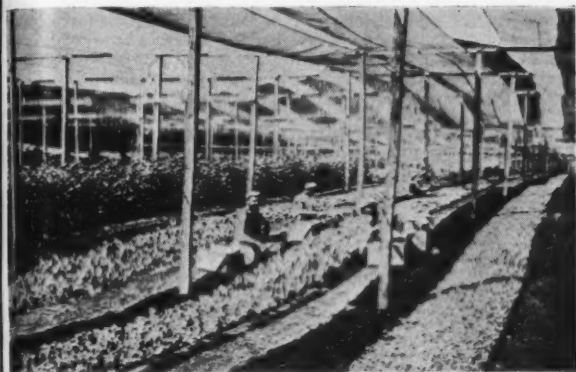
avoided. For the existing farmlands cannot hope to produce enough additional nourishment to sustain the five million extra inhabitants born every year. But if the towns could be made self-supporting in greenstuffs by means of hydroponics, thus leaving the available fertile country lands free for cereal growing, there would be some hope of meeting the crisis successfully.

Experiments in hydroponics were begun in 1946 at the Government of Bengal's experimental farm at Kalimpong, in the Darjeeling district. The growing of plants without soil is no new thing. For many years laboratory water cultures have been used to test the nutritional requirements of various crops. During the last war, hydroponics was employed to feed troops in barren areas, or in places where local produce could not be safely eaten. Big hydroponicums have been operating for some years in Japan, on Ascension Island, at the RAF base of Habbaniyah in Iraq, and in the United States. Unfortunately, all these installations required highly trained technicians to keep them going. The equipment was complicated and costly, and elaborate apparatus was essential to enable production to be maintained. Consequently, hydroponicums or methods of these types were quite useless for ordinary farmers or growers to raise crops in.

When trials were initiated in India, it was obvious that a novel

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Large soilless culture unit, Japan. (Photo: Reinhold)

system of which practicability and simplicity must be the keynotes would have to be introduced if hydroponics were ever to prove of any value there. One of the first problems was the Asiatic monsoon, which would undoubtedly upset the controlled exactitude of all known methods. Techniques with impressive records of achievement in the United States had failed badly when tried out under damp European conditions. Equipment readily obtainable elsewhere was then virtually impossible to get in India, and would have been too expensive to use in any case. For these reasons it was necessary to reject all complicated systems from England or America, and to eschew elaborate apparatus. A foolproof code of rules and regulations had to be devised, and the development of a practical, simple and economical method concentrated upon.

Careful appraisal of salient problems resulted in the Bengal system of hydroponics, the first account of which was published in 1948. After the completion of the initial trials at Kalimpong, demonstration sectors were constructed at Calcutta, and soon many thousands of enthusiasts opened hydroponicums all over the country. Local governments have started centres to popularise the system. The Government of Bombay has opened a sector at Aarey, in the suburban Milk Colony. A Hydroponic Information Centre has been started in Bombay to give advice and supply literature.

The Bengal system of hydroponics, originated in India, and adapted and modified for different countries has caught the imagination of the world. The method of growing crops without soil in use throughout India incorporates substantial changes of all previous practice. It is simple and straightforward, and anyone can follow it. The plants are grown in troughs or beds constructed from any suitable material, such as mud plaster, stones, wood, sheeting, or bricks, about 4 feet wide and of any convenient length. They are filled to a depth of 8 inches with a coarse mineral aggregate, preferably a mixture of five parts of stone chips, gravel, leached cinders, or broken rocks of  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch grade, and two parts of sand or rock dust. This growing medium is kept constantly moist like a damp sponge just lightly wrung out. Nutrients are periodically applied dry in powdered form, as tablets, or in the shape of synthetic resins, in a stipulated ratio to the area of bed space. They may be sprinkled evenly between the rows of crops. If given as fertiliser grade salts, the nutrients have to be watered in with a fine spray immediately after application, but when added by means of synthetic resins, called amberlites, an adequate amount is incorporated with the aggregate in the beds.

No elaborate equipment is required for a hydroponicum of this type, nor are completely waterproof troughs necessary, since flooding is not practised. Extensive use may also be made of any available local substitute materials, if improvisation is called for.

It is a good thing to have the trough bottoms slightly cambered, or sloping, and small drainage holes are provided at regular intervals in the side walls, with gutters to catch any surplus solution. Water-logging has to be prevented at all costs, and proper aeration of the growing medium ensured, but with the Bengal system an automatic supply of oxygen is guaranteed by the steady percolation of moisture through the semi-porous walls, and consequent intake of air from

above. The growing medium, after being carefully blended, is placed in the beds. The most critical factor in the choice of an aggregate is to ensure that it is not likely to suffocate the plants by preventing aeration of the roots. For washing in the nutrient salts after application a stirrup pump is best, and the fertiliser mixture can be sprinkled over the beds by using a simple tin spreader device. Otherwise only a pipe, or hose, to convey water to the troughs, and a fork and rake are necessary. In very hot areas, overhead shading against sun scorch is essential, and the mats also ward off heavy monsoon rain. For irrigation, bamboos cut and split make useful substitutes for irrigation channels.

During the first trials in Bengal, which were conducted with tomatoes, potatoes, maize, rice, and vegetables such as egg-plants and lettuces, some surprise was felt that a novel method should give immediate signs of success. But as further plantings only emphasised the practicability of the system, more experiments were undertaken. Early on in the work, beds were handed over to ordinary cultivators to manage, under guidance, and the tests were soon extended to other parts of West Bengal. In some cases, seeds were sown directly into the aggregate, but with very small ones germination was effected in boxes of sand, the seedlings being subsequently transplanted. Before sowing, the aggregate was brought to the correct degree of saturation. All crops were sown in straight rows parallel to the width of the beds to facilitate spreading of nutrients. Wilting was unknown.

The quantity of water varied according to season, but on the whole there was far greater economy of water in hydroponic beds than in dissipating it over the fields in ordinary irrigation. A device has been evolved for automatically distilling fresh water for soilless units from brine or salty ground water. In India, persons interested in hydroponics are given a formula to have made up at the local fertiliser suppliers. This is a balanced prescription suitable for local conditions. The layman, or ordinary grower, is therefore enabled to obtain the correct nutrients without any trouble, and receives expert guidance all along.

Since the success of the early trials of hydroponics in Bengal, the methods evolved have spread throughout the country. Large crops are being raised in towns on rooftops, in backyards, under verandahs, and on waste areas by both commercial growers and housewives. The great possibilities for desert and barren areas have been fully realised. Water available from deep wells in these places is conserved in hydroponic beds, and there is no loss from evaporation.

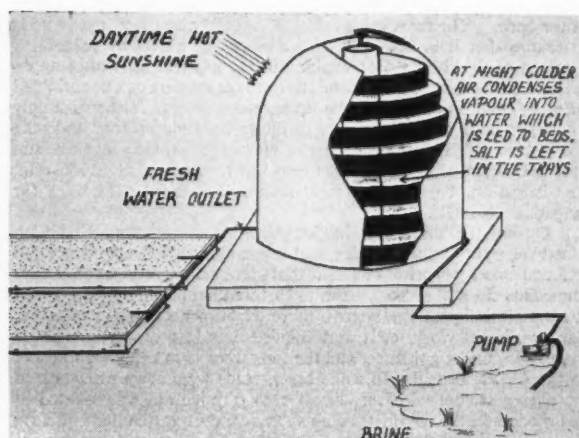
The yields of crops under hydroponic cultivation have been greatly increased. Some examples are 24 lb. of tomatoes per plant

in West Bengal, or 200 tons to the acre. The best soil seldom gives over 25 tons per acre. The production of maize was raised from an average of under 2,000 lb. of grain off the cob to one of 7,000 lb. per acre. Rice in hydroponic beds yielded 8,000 lb. to the acre. Field beans showed an increase of 60 per cent. over normal soil totals. Added to these extra crops, the great saving in labour, absence of digging and back-breaking toil, and economy of time, make the system very attractive.

The nutrients to be supplied as plant food are easily obtainable. The main fertilisers employed are nitrate of

*Soilless grown maize,  
West Bengal*





Device for producing fresh water from saline ground water or brine

soda, ammonium sulphate, calcium sulphate, potash salts, magnesium sulphate and a phosphate. The resins have anion and cation exchange properties, and are available as amberlites. The main object is to ensure that the crops get maximum amounts of food

in the correct proportions. With soilless cultivation, erosion is checked. Good crops may be obtained all the year round. In the tea, rubber, and coffee industries, as well as in tobacco growing, hydroponics greatly reduces costs. By constructing permanent beds, better seedlings can be raised, and disease is checked. Among many institutions using soilless cultures, is the Indian Tea Association's Experimental Station, at Tocklai, in Assam. Several big plantations in South India, and in Ceylon, have also found the methods invaluable.

Tests have been undertaken of vitamin content of fruits grown without soil. The results have been quite satisfactory, and mineral analyses have shown all elements present in suitable amounts. In fact, one may with hydroponics, produce improved fruits of higher mineral values simply by altering the formulae as required.

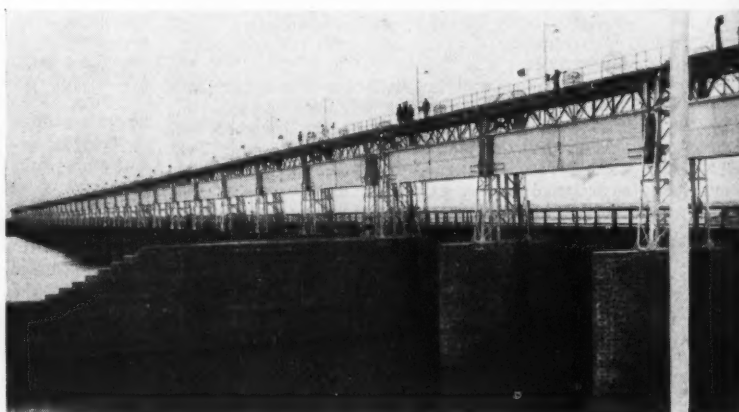
Hydroponics is a new technique. Few persons are aware of its great possibilities. The development in West Bengal of these new and simplified methods represents an important advance in the agricultural technique of India. The rapid spread of the Bengal system illustrates how big is the need for a method of producing food independent of the soil, and not subject to the vagaries of nature. Hydroponics gives an immediate return within three to six months, whereas with soil it is necessary to wait many years before maximum fertility can be built up. In soilless cultivation may well be found the answer to the problem of feeding the millions of Asia. In the congested regions of India, among the overcrowded areas of Japan, or in the overpopulated localities of Indonesia, hydroponics can save many from hunger and bring freedom from want into the poorest of homes.

## THE KOTRI BARRAGE

By James W. Hayes

**M**ARCH 15 was a day of great rejoicing and hope for the people of the Lower Sind in Pakistan, for it marked the occasion of the opening of the giant barrage at Kotri astride the Indus River. The 1,800 miles Indus rises amidst the snows of Tibet and for the first 500 miles or so follows a north-westerly course through high mountain ranges until crossing the border of West Pakistan. After entering northern Kashmir the Indus flows between two of the world's highest mountain ranges, the Karakorams on the north and the Himalayas on the south, before finally heading south-west to become the main artery and life-line of West Pakistan on its flow through the North-West Frontier, the Punjab and Sind into the Arabian Sea.

At Sukkur in Upper Sind stands the huge Sukkur Barrage, built in 1923 by the British which, with its intricate system of canals and waterways, has transformed a former desert region into one of the most important cotton-growing areas in Pakistan. In Lower Sind, however, there was a different story to tell, once this mighty river had left the command area of the Sukkur Barrage. From then on it proceeded on a reckless course, wayward and uncontrolled, now unleashing calamitous floods on the fields, now carrying away millions of tons of valuable silt into the greedy jaws



of the Arabian Sea and leaving devastation in its wake.

Preliminary work on the project at Kotri, which has now been renamed the Ghulam Mohammed Barrage after Pakistan's greatly-respected Governor-General, commenced in 1946 when excavation of the Kalri Baghar Feeder was taken in hand. Work on the Barrage proper started in October, 1949, and February 12, 1950, saw the laying of the foundation-stone by the then Governor-General, Khwaja Nazimuddin. For six long years men and machines have toiled under the burning desert sun to build this great engineering achievement, the biggest irrigation project in Pakistan since Independence. Huge excavators, pile drivers and an army of earth-moving equipment, have roared and rumbled from dawn to dusk in a welter of dust, noise and heat to reclaim this land and hand it back restored to usefulness to its rightful owners, the people of Lower Sind.

The Ghulam Mohammed Barrage is some 3,000 feet

long and consists of 44 bays each of a 60-foot span. These bays are provided with gates 21 feet deep which will retain water 20 feet above the crest of the Barrage. Running the entire length of the Barrage is a 28-foot road-bridge with foot-paths on either side. In height the Barrage towers some 84 feet above its rock-bottom foundation. It is constructed of mass concrete faced with stone quarried from nearby Jungshahi. Above is the steel bridge-work from which the gates are operated. The maximum flood discharge for which the Barrage is designed is 875,000 cusecs.

So much for the appearance of the Barrage. Now, what is it going to mean to the people of the area in terms of land availability and productive capacity? Plans for the apportionment of land have made it quite clear that this is a project essentially for the betterment of the small man—the peasant farmer, with the large landed proprietor having little place in the scheme of things. In the words of the Governor-General at the opening ceremony: "The common man, whether a refugee or a local, is the core of our nation, and all our schemes and projects must aim at ameliorating the hardships of his day to day life." The Barrage promises to command a total cultivable area of 2,750,000 acres in the Hyderabad, Thatta and Dadu districts, of which 1,100,000 acres are entirely virgin land. About one third of the command area has been reserved for landless peasants, many of them refugees from across the Indian border, who have now made their homes in Sind. Some 300,000 acres will be allotted for the resettlement of ex-Servicemen and their families. 73,000 acres are to be devoted to forests. The balance will be apportioned into small-holdings.

In terms of productive capacity, the life-giving waters of the Barrage are expected to raise the current annual out-turn of crops from this region from 179,000 tons to 750,000 tons or over four times as much.

Two other features of the Barrage proper deserving of mention are the provision of a lock channel to facilitate the trans-shipment of river traffic, and the construction of two fish ladders which will enable the valuable "palla" fish to reach the northern reaches of the river. The time is not far distant when this erstwhile "Unhappy Valley" of Lower Sind will begin to bloom and flourish. Dry and dusty desert will give place to fields of wheat, barley and cotton and life will begin anew.



Governor-General Ghulam Mohammed opening the Kotri Barrage

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*Fishing boats of a modified Korean design under construction in Pusan. UNKRA provided the essential materials for the reconstruction of the Korean fishing fleet (United Nations picture)*

## UNKRA —A SUCCESS

**T**HE United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, for short UNKRA, has played a conspicuous part in the economic rehabilitation of South Korea. The war has left the country in a state of complete devastation, and the task of economic reconstruction is a tremendous one. But Mr. Thomas Jamieson, Chief of Operations of UNKRA, who paid a short visit to Britain in April, is confident that the reconstruction is well under way.

UNKRA's budget is financed by voluntary contributions of various Governments, including the USA, UK, some Commonwealth and Scandinavian countries as well as by some like Switzerland which are not members of the United Nations.

In 1952, surveys were drawn up showing that the cost of the complete rehabilitation of South Korea would amount to about US\$1,200m. of foreign aid. UNKRA decided to concentrate their efforts on a smaller programme in accordance with their financial capacity, but to make its execution a proper success and thus to contribute to the overall reconstruction of the country. In September, 1953, UNKRA's tasks have been defined as to be in charge of long-term rehabilitation, i.e., power-rehabilitation, reconstruction of industry and mining facilities, land reclamation and flood control, irrigation, fisheries, forestry, education and housing. In addition UNKRA gives advice on overall economic problems to the Unified Command in Washington.

A programme envisaging foreign aid contributions to the value of US\$130m. was drawn up. Of this amount about US\$80m. have been already spent, and it is estimated that rehabilitation projects on which UNKRA has embarked will be completed by the middle of 1957.

Of particular importance to South Korea's economy is the mining industry. UNKRA secured the services of Powell Duffryn

Ltd., London, for technical advice on production matters, on the type of mining equipment to be bought, as well as on the training of Koreans. During the Japanese occupation all managerial posts were filled by Japanese and it was necessary to train Koreans to become technicians and managers. The country is rich in gold, and deposits are being developed. The entire gold output is bought by the Government which is paying prices above the world market quotations.

An important project—the Mineral Assay Laboratory at Taejon—was completed in March, 1954. Instead of sending mineral samples abroad the analyses are now being carried out on the spot, and Korean technicians are being trained by international staff.

In the industrial field, UNKRA concentrated their efforts on the most important projects. The three principal textile mills are being rehabilitated. Most of the machinery was supplied by the Lancashire firm—Platt Bros. & Co. Ltd.—which has also assisted in the installation of the machinery. It is estimated that the new spindles will increase the production of material for 39 million yards annually.

In connection with building activities, cement is urgently needed, and UNKRA has been carrying out the rehabilitation of the cement industry. One cement project alone cost US\$5m., and the machinery is being supplied by the Danish firm—Smidth and Company.

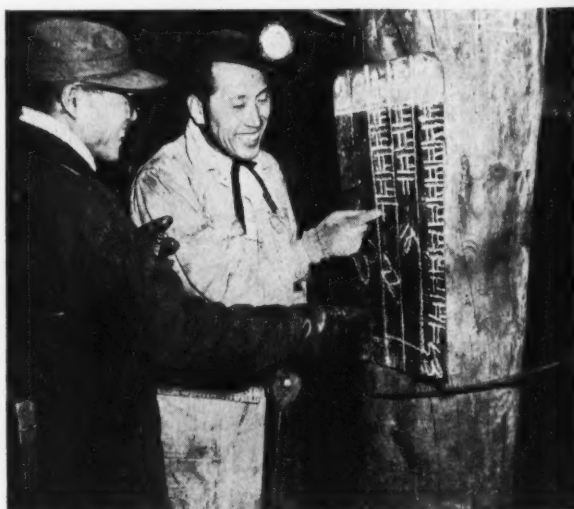
In the educational field, UNKRA has done good work in rebuilding schools, and an important achievement is the erection of a text-book printing plant.

Fishery, which provides an important contribution to the people's diet, has also been assisted by UNKRA. Canneries, ice-plants have been rehabilitated, and loans to small fishermen have been arranged through the Fishery Guild. The fishing fleet is being rebuilt, and recently 5 fishing boats were launched in Pusan.

UNKRA has been also active in fighting the desperate housing situation of the country, and has arranged for long-term credits through the Housing Cooperatives.

In cooperation with other organisations, including the FAO, UNKRA has assisted in the rehabilitation of the country's agriculture, irrigation, flood control and forestry. During the last two years South Korea had very good harvests which are partly due to UNKRA's imports of fertilisers and machinery.

These are only a few examples of UNKRA's very versatile activities which assist the overall rehabilitation of the country, and Sir Arthur Rucker, who from 1951 to 1953 was UNKRA's chief executive in Korea, and is now their European Representative, is justified in saying "I honestly believe that UNKRA is a success."



*UNKRA helps to increase coal production in Korea. This United Nations picture was taken in the rehabilitated and modernised Macha-ri coal mines, 150 miles south-east of Seoul*

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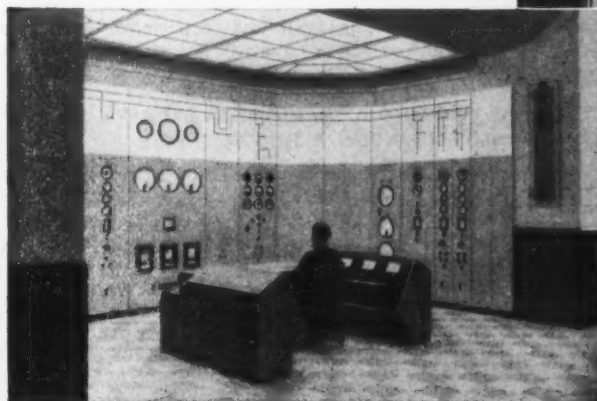
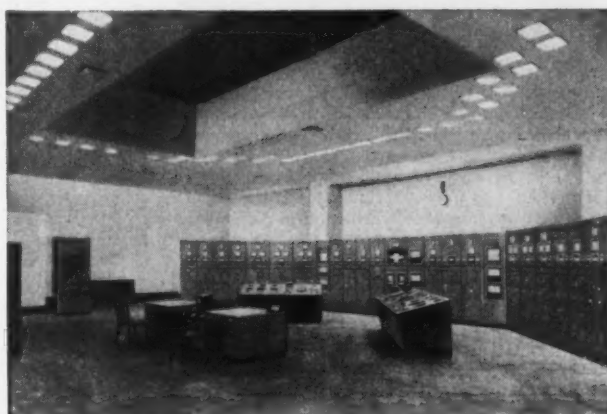


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Photographs by courtesy of the British Electricity Authority

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# PORT OF SUVA TO BE DEVELOPED

*By a Special Correspondent in Suva*

**A**FTER several years of deliberation and negotiation a comprehensive scheme has emerged for the development of the Port of Suva and of the Lautoka Wharf. The cost of the whole scheme is estimated at £2,750,000 (Suva Docks—£2.5m., Lautoka Wharf—£250,000), and it is hoped that tenders will be called for by the end of this year, and the construction of the docks will begin in 1956.

The scheme is based on the reports submitted by the Consultants (Messrs. Wilton and Bell, London). In their 1952 report on the Suva Port accommodation, they recommended the construction of an entirely new wharf, and proposed two alternatives, either to construct a wharf where the existing King's Wharf is, or to build docks further north in Walu Bay, where a more permanent structure would be possible. The proposals were discussed by various interested bodies, such as the Chambers of Commerce, and it was decided to build in Walu Bay. The Secretary of State granted his approval to this scheme in 1953. The project includes the construction of docks, an oil discharge berth, and the construction of a slipway.

In connection with the wharf at Lautoka the Consultants suggested two alternative sites, either near Namoli or next to the existing Colonial Sugar Refining wharf. After discussions with the Lautoka Town Board and other parties concerned, it was decided to build the new wharf at the site close to the existing Sugar Refining Company. It had been hoped that it would have been possible to have obtained approval for the use of Colonial Development and

Welfare Funds for this project, but as it will be a revenue earning project it is not eligible for a free grant and it will have to be financed entirely from Colony funds or from loan funds. Thus while a £4.7m. development programme is being carried out in the Colony, the port and wharf development project must be regarded as being separate from the general Development Programme.

The other project—outside the scope of the general development programme—is the Suva Water Supply scheme, the cost of which is estimated at approximately £750,000. The Government has accepted in principle the report prepared by the Consultants (Messrs. Sandford, Fawcett and Partners, London). The report proposes the construction of a dam in the Colo-i-Suva area and the installation of mains. Borings and investigations required into the dam site have been carried out under the supervision of an engineer of the Consultants' firm since 1954.

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## DENMARK'S TRADE WITH MALAYA

*By A. E. W. Godesen*

**M**ALAYA and Denmark, because they are situated at important international sea-lanes—the Straits of Malacca and the Sound and Belts (the natural access to the Baltic Sea)—are both natural centres of collection and distribution for their neighbouring countries and have been so for centuries. Denmark is an "old" country in the western world and has, therefore, together with other western countries, a highly developed economic system including, *inter alia*, a high degree of mechanisation and a large and continuously growing manu-

facturing industry. Denmark is poor in raw materials, but this is made up for through its many natural and cheap harbours.

On the other hand, Malaya, although a country in the process of powerful development, is basically a great producer of raw materials, specifically rubber and tin which are much needed for the manufacture of the supplies required in the modern world. The steadily rising standard of living in Malaya also makes this country an increasingly important buyer of goods from abroad. In consequence, Denmark and Malaya have good use for each other economically and as may be expected this is also reflected in the trade figures which show a steadily increasing commercial intercourse between the two

The author is Royal Danish Vice-Consul in Penang, Fed. of Malaya.





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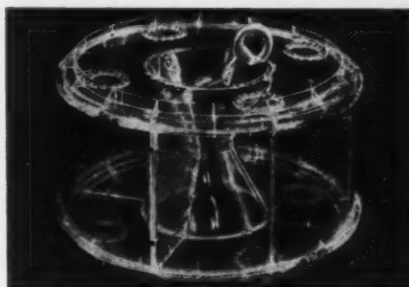
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countries. It is necessary to note that when here speaking of Malaya, the Colony of Singapore and the Federation of Malaya are taken as one unit, which is reasonable as they are closely linked together economically and play the part of one unit towards the outside world.

It should also be added that when speaking of trade between Malaya and Denmark it is only possible to consider the direct trade between the two countries, as any speculation as to the, albeit considerable, amount of Malayan goods sold to Denmark via other countries and of Danish goods imported into but not sold direct to Malaya can only be guesswork. Before the war, during the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 until the war broke out, the value of goods from Denmark imported into Malaya amounted to 2.13 per cent. of Malaya's total imports from Europe, whereas Malaya's direct export to Denmark during the same period amounted to 0.96 per cent. of Malaya's export to European countries. After the war, during the years 1951, 1952 and 1953 and the first six months of 1954, the corresponding figures were 3.16 per cent. and 2.35 per cent. The figures in detail were :

TRADE OF DANISH GOODS TO MALAYA (IMPORTS)			TRADE OF MALAYAN GOODS TO DENMARK (EXPORTS)		
	Value in M.\$	Percentage of total Imports from Europe		Value in M.\$	Percentage of total Exports from Europe
1937 ...	575,214.00	1.47	1,181,947.00	0.80	
1938 ...	910,486.00	2.55	1,001,038.00	1.04	
1939 ...	595,677.00	2.61	708,558.00	1.28	
(Jan.-Aug.)					
Yrly Avg.	780,516.00	2.13	1,084,329.00	0.96	
1951 ...	19,228,224.00	4.23	33,434,232.00	2.64	
1952 ...	18,445,946.00	6.13	13,032,248.00	1.71	
1953 ...	13,931,940.00	1.44	13,453,927.00	2.37	
1954 ...	7,634,466.00	5.09	8,505,444.00	2.75	
(Jan.-June)					
Yrly Avg.	16,925,879.00	3.16	19,550,243.00	2.35	

It should be noted that although no trade agreement exists between the two countries (considering the circumstances generally applying among many other countries after the war the trade is actually as free as it can be between two countries which are not inside the same economic bloc) the trade has on its own found a very reasonable balance. Also as compared to Malaya's total trade with the outside world do the figures show progress for the trade between Malaya and Denmark. The actual percentages of the total trade are as follows :

	Percentage of Malayan Imports from Denmark compared to World Total	Percentage of Malayan Exports to Denmark compared to World Total
1937 ...	0.12	0.26
1938 ...	0.25	0.31
1939 (Jan.-Aug.)	0.15	0.16
1951 ...	0.41	0.56
1952 ...	0.48	0.34
1953 ...	0.43	0.46
1954 (Jan.-June)...	0.70	0.94

Malaya's main export articles and also those of Denmark are well known and it is only natural that the trade between Malaya and Denmark in the main covers these articles. It will, however, surprise the reader that no tin or other non-ferrous metals are included in Malaya's exports to Denmark and that the crude rubber figure is as small as it is. This is due to the fact that most of Denmark's requirements of tin and a large percentage of Denmark's requirements of rubber are purchased

from London and shipped from there to Denmark. During the year 1953 and the first six months of 1954 the most important items of the direct trade between Malaya and Denmark were as follows :

IMPORTS FROM DENMARK TO MALAYA		M.\$
1. Dairy products, frozen, canned, salted and prepared meat ...	...	4,511,596.00
2. Condensed milk ...	...	9,145,078.00
3. Alcoholic beverages ...	...	4,750,524.00
4. Cement, limestone, etc. ...	...	1,191,005.00
5. Miscellaneous manufactured articles ...	...	601,479.00
EXPORTS FROM MALAYA TO DENMARK		M.\$
1. Coffee ...	...	1,520,951.00
2. Spices ...	...	697,036.00
3. Oil, seed, nuts and kernels ...	...	9,636,314.00
4. Crude rubber ...	...	9,009,724.00

It may be a surprise that timber from Malaya does not comprise a major item in its exports to Denmark but this is due to the fact that Denmark is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of one of the world's biggest timber producing areas, viz., Norway, Sweden and Finland, which supply practically all the needs for imported timber in Denmark. The reason why Denmark's manufactured articles do not run into a higher figure as far as export to Malaya is concerned is that manufactured products from Denmark are normally of a comparatively high price due to the stress on quality, whereas Malaya's requirements of manufactured products tend to concentrate on inexpensiveness and the major part of the imports in this category is therefore supplied by the large industrial countries. As an interesting characteristic it may be mentioned that the Malayan statistics show that during 1953 a quantity of manufactured rubber materials to a figure of 8342,627.00 was exported to Denmark.

The first item of the imports as given above is made up as follows :

	M.\$
Dairy Products ...	2,691,226.00
Canned, frozen, salted and otherwise prepared meat	1,653,683.00
Cereal preparations ...	166,687.00

The alcoholic beverages mentioned comprise almost exclusively Danish beer but well-known Danish export products like Aqua Vitae and Heering Cherry Brandy are also represented.

The trade between Malaya and Denmark is mostly carried on Danish liners which are servicing Malaya several times a month. There is every possibility that the rising standard of living in Malaya and the increasing capacity for manufacture in Denmark will cause the trade between the two countries to increase still further provided of course that no external disturbances or upheavals take place. The continuous exchange of products through the years proves that the two countries complement each other in a large number of important lines.

#### MALAYAN TRADE WITH EASTERN EUROPE

TRADING figures of Malayan imports and exports from Eastern European countries during 1954 are now available and are as follows :

	Imports (in Malayan dollars)*	Exports
Bulgaria ...	1,435	332,227
German Democratic Republic	2,010,850	69,737
Hungary ...	1,785,562	342,834
Poland ...	2,496,148	23,125,207
Rumania ...	73,792	94,251
USSR ...	21,279	—
Yugoslavia ...	84,203	6,504,232

\*(M\$1=2/4 sterling)

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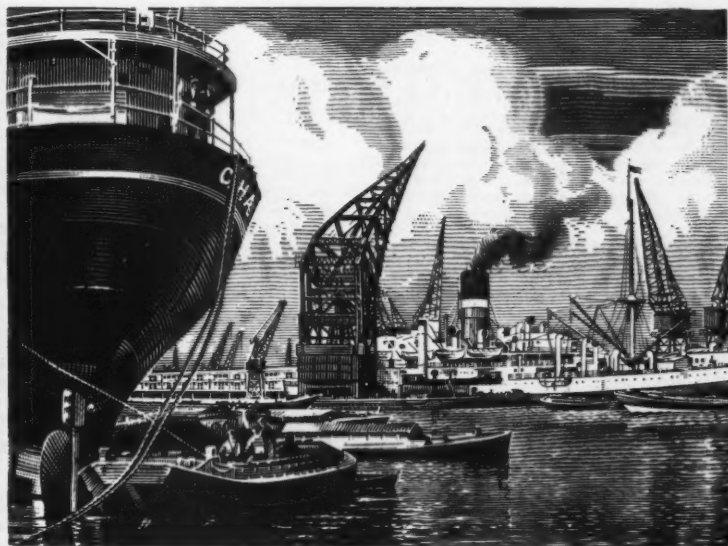
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## CEYLON—RUSSIA TRADE

*By our Colombo Correspondent*

**R**USSIA may become the third Communist country to trade with Ceylon, if a proposal now before the Government is approved. The other two countries which already trade with Ceylon are Red China and Czechoslovakia.

This trade may be either through the normal channels or on a Government-to-Government basis, as in the case with the other two countries.

In the forefront of this move to establish trade relations with Russia are Ceylonese business men who demand that "international middlemen" such as Britain should be eliminated and the advantages of trade in Ceylon produce passed on to Ceylonese traders. They have submitted evidence to the Government to show that the UK, for instance, is selling Ceylon produce such as coconut oil and rubber to Russia in exchange for other commodities.

It is now learnt that a definite offer has been made by Russia to buy coconut oil and spices from Ceylon in exchange for machinery and textiles, and Ceylonese business men are anxious not to miss this opportunity.

Hitherto, the Government has refused to issue licences to Ceylonese to trade with Russia. This has been more on political grounds than on anything else, though the Government has also pleaded exchange difficulties.

Ceylonese business men have pointed out that coconut oil and spices are not strategic goods and did not come under the United Nation's ban on strategic goods to Communist nations. They state that exchange difficulties could be overcome by trading with Russia on a barter basis, as in the case of trade between Britain and Russia.

There are definite indications now that the Government may relax its trade policy towards Communist nations, allowing a greater measure of freedom than before. One such indication is the decision to give up its policy of leaning too heavily on certain markets for Ceylon produce.

Meanwhile, arrangements are being made to hold trade talks between Ceylon, Burma and Red China, preparatory to signing a three-way trade agreement. According to present indications the talks will be held in Rangoon this month.

Main idea behind the proposed trade agreement is said to be the circumventing of the US Battle Act, which debar any country trading in strategic materials with Communist nations from receiving US aid.

At present, Ceylon buys rice from Burma, as well as Red China, to which country she sells her rubber. But this trade with China has cut Ceylon off from much needed dollar aid for economic development.

Under the proposed agreement Burma will supply rice to Ceylon and buy rubber for export to China. This will eliminate direct trade in rubber between Ceylon and China.

The idea for the agreement is understood to have originated during the Ceylon Premier's visit to the United States in December. The prospects of Ceylon being included in future dollar aid programmes are said to be brighter after this visit, and the visit to the island of Mr. Harold Stassen, Chief of the US Foreign Operations Administration. The three-way trade agreement is expected to remove the only obstacle—the Ceylon-China trade agreement—to Ceylon getting such aid.

## Mr. B. M. BIRLA ON INDIA'S STEEL INDUSTRY

Mr. Birla in his Presidential Address at the 28th annual session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which was attended by Prime Minister Nehru, said on the development of India's steel industry:

"Our industrial base has to be considerably expanded and at every stage we must remember that development is an inter-related process. We are thinking of increasing production of iron and steel by 4 to 4½ m. tons in the next five years which may cost something like 400 crores of rupees. One should expect that in our third Plan this production would go up to 20 m. tons, that is, about the level of production in the UK with a population which is less than one-seventh of ours. Incidentally, I would like to emphasise here that our plans for expansion of iron and steel capacity require to be implemented with greater vigour and the connected problems such as finding the

metallurgical coal and alternative fuel must be given greater attention. In the advanced industrial countries, metallurgical industry is the largest single industry and contributes 25 to 30 per cent. to the national income. If, in our second Five-Year Plan period, the extra 4½ m. tons of steel have to be consumed, it will necessitate a very substantial installation of fabrication and machining capacity of the engineering industry. It is estimated that to process 1,000 tons of steel per year, an average investment of 20 to 25 lakhs of rupees is necessary for putting up a fabrication or machining plant. Assuming that we may have to process or fabricate 2½ m. tons of steel only out of the increased production in

the next five years, it will mean an additional investment of Rs. 500 crores in the engineering industry, apart from the investment of Rs. 400 crores in the iron and steel industry. In the fabrication and machining sector of the engineering industry alone, we will have to have about 250 fairly large factories. We must also have a large number of new non-ferrous metal producing units."

Referring to the importance of the machine tool industry and of the imports of machine tools, Mr. Birla said that India's national planning without a machine-making industry would be absolutely useless. He added that:

"At present we have 16 graded units only in the machine tool industry and we make annually about 1,000 machine tools, the value of which is about Rs. 30 lakhs. We also import about Rs. 4 crores worth of machine tools every year. If the process of industrialisation is to be speeded up, then both our imports and the indigenous production of machine tools have to be increased manifold. To start with, our imports of machinery will considerably increase; we should not hold up our industrial development as for many years domestic production cannot meet our requirements. A study of the pattern of foreign trade of advanced industrial countries reveals that there is considerable exchange of machinery and machine tools between them. It is worth bearing in mind that greater indigenous production and imports are not incompatible, but they are complementary. It is estimated that in the United States of America, over half a million machine tools are made every year. This figure as against the production of 1,000 machine tools in our country shows how much we have to do. We should aim in the next five years at installing 1½ lakh new machine tools for machine-making as well as for expanding our machine tool manufacturing industry. Further, by the end of the second Five-Year Plan period we must ensure that we are in a position to produce at least 30,000 machine tools every year."

### Technical Aid to Chittaranjan

The technical aid agreement which was in the past concluded between the British Locomotive Manufacturers' Association and the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works has now been renewed between the North British Locomotive Co., Ltd., Glasgow, and the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works. The Glasgow firm has close connections of long standing with India and other Asian markets. Recently this firm secured several orders for spare parts from the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and the India Government Store Department.

The Glasgow firm recently supplied the first Diesel hydraulic locomotive to Malaya. In connection with the modernisation of UK railways, the British manufacturers of railway rolling stock hope that a healthy home market will enable them to compete more effectively in the foreign markets.



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## From Chairmen's Speeches

### The Power Gas Corporation Ltd.

Mr. N. E. Rambush, D.Sc., (Hon.) M.I. Chem.E., F.R.S.A. (chairman and managing director) :

"We can record with pride that the Indian Iron and Steel Company have entrusted to us the construction of two blast furnaces for their Burnpur works. This order was secured against strong competition from other countries . . .

"The Power-Gas Corporation (Australasia) Pty. Ltd. Victoria is at present fully employed on current contracts. I would like to make special reference to the large and important contract secured from the Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Australia) Ltd. for oil gas plant, which was taken against strong American competition. The outlook for our business in Australia is promising."

### The Monotype Corporation Ltd.

Brigadier Sir George Harvie-Watt, Bart., T.D., A.D.C., Q.C. (chairman) :

"In countries further from these shores we are benefiting by the developments of printing and the growth of education. In India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, and Thailand we have been working in close cooperation with those nationals seeking to overcome the difficulties of spreading the printed word throughout areas where a multiplicity of tongues and dialects is deeply rooted. We are sure that the time will come when our efforts will prove to have been justified. Pakistan regrettably has found it necessary to apply severe import restrictions. These remarks apply with equal force to Indonesia where we could send more of our machines if the economy of that country allowed the necessary licences."

### Blundell, Spence & Co., Ltd., London

Mr. E. B. Calvert (chairman and managing director) :

"Our Indian subsidiary, Elephant Oil Mills, Ltd., Bombay, enjoyed another successful year's trading. Sales were maintained at the high level of previous years and profits earned exceeded substantially those for the previous period."

### J. H. Fenner & Co. (Holdings) Ltd.

Mr. C. Bradshaw, F.C.A., (chairman) and Mr. S. B. Hainsworth, F.T.I., (deputy chairman and managing director) in their joint statement :

"Through a new company, Messrs. Fenner-Cockhill Limited, we are in process of establishing, in conjunction with Messrs. A. & F. Harvey Limited, of Madurai, South India, a factory in Kochadai, Madurai, which is expected before the end of this year to be manufacturing a range of solid woven beltings under our well-known brands, together with Fenner industrial V-belts and fan belts, and it is expected that before very long we shall be able to add to the unique engineering service for V-belt drives which we are already in a position to give in India through our agents there."

### United Serdang (Sumatra) Rubber

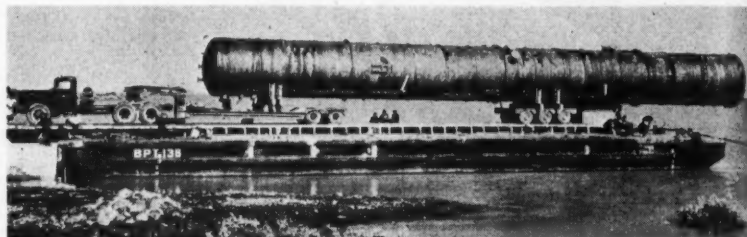
Sir Eric Miller (chairman) :

"We are being cruelly mulcted in Indonesia at three points : Firstly, in export duties ; secondly, by company tax, which rises to 52½ per cent. of fiscal profits ; and thirdly, as though that were not enough, by the levy of 66½ per cent. on the remittable balance.

"The yields which our old trees are giving and their general vigour confirm the opinion we have long held that Sumatra is an ideal habitat for *Hevea Braziliensis*, but in face of

such treatment meted out to old and tried investors in Indonesia, can it be wondered at that fair words alone do not evoke the inflow of foreign investment which the young Republic clearly needs and professes to welcome?

"A lasting solution of the problem of illegal occupation of estate land is unfortunately not in sight, and it is feared that no Government unarmed with an electoral mandate will have the courage to tackle the problem with the necessary firmness. When the election is to be held is still in the lap of the gods."



The 100 tons fractionating column for the Catalytic Cracking Plant at the new Refinery near Bombay being floated to Trombay Island after its journey from Britain (A Shell Photograph)

## MINING AND MINERAL PROSPECTS IN FIJI

"It is considered that in the light of prospects and orebodies presently known to exist in Fiji, this Colony offers some scope for prospecting, using modern techniques, for base metal deposits and radioactive minerals. There are still also possibilities in the field of gold prospecting, but copper, zinc, manganese, phosphate rock and the possibility of uranium appear to be of greater interest at the present time and in these fields comparatively little systematic work has been done in Fiji," says K. R. Fleischman, Inspector of Mines, Fiji, in the concluding paragraph of his recently compiled review on mining and mineral prospects in Fiji. (Council Paper No. 49, Legislative Council, Fiji, 1954.)

The report describes the various manganese deposits, and notes that, generally speaking, Fijian manganese shows no deleterious phosphorus content. It can be assumed that systematic modern prospecting techniques would locate substantial manganese deposits in the Fiji group. Among the opened up deposits, that at Nasaucoke on the island of Viti Levu appears to be the most promising one. The orebody should be capable of producing a minimum of 15,000 tons of manganese ore (pyrolusite) with a manganese content of better than 48 per cent. This deposit was only opened during 1954, and although some selective mining may become necessary owing to the presence of silica and iron, the prospects are considered reasonably good, and other similar deposits are likely to be opened in the immediate vicinity of this deposit, where large floaters have been found.

The two Vunamoli manganese deposits are located in small pockets of jungle within the usual open grass country in the Nadroga Province on the western side of the Viti Levu island. Both deposits have been known to the natives for a considerable time, but it was only in 1954 that one of the local Fijians decided to apply for a Prospecting Licence over the area on behalf of the people of Vunamoli village. Vunamoli deposit No. 1 is thought to be suitable for open cast operations and capable of producing 48-55 per cent. M. ore (pyrolusite) and better, whilst the more silicious ore would probably be suitable for concentration. Mr. Fleischman lists furthermore the following manganese ore deposits :

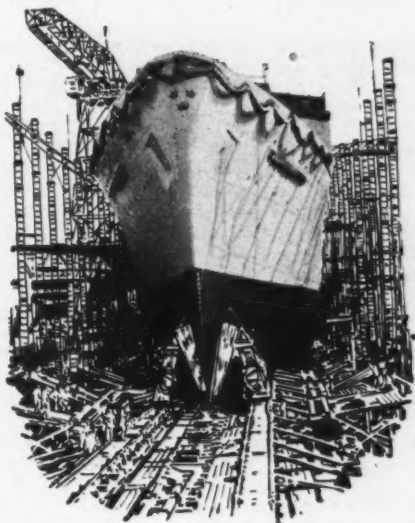
Tabuquto deposit in the Bavu Province of Viti Levu which has, according to surface prospects, ore reserves of some 5,000 tons.

Wauosi deposit in the Colo West Province of Viti Levu. The average assay for total manganese from this area is 60 per cent.

Nabu deposit in the Nadroga Province of Viti Levu consists of a number of small manganese lenses embedded in a ferruginous clay. It is estimated that during the last three years 2,300 tons of manganese ore have been produced from that area, the average grade of ore being better than 50 per cent. for manganese content, with a low iron content. Production from this deposit is continuing, but as no exploration work is carried out, ore reserves are unknown, but considered sufficient to last a number of years.

Koroviko and Natabuquto deposits are located in the same area as the Nabu deposit, about 16 miles south of the Nadi township.





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No mining is being carried out at present, but several thousand tons of ore could be mined from these deposits.

Votulevu deposit—also situated on the western side of Viti Levu—was first opened up about five years ago and production has been in excess of 2,000 tons of manganese ore, assaying between 50 per cent. for manganese, the iron content being less than 4 per cent. and that of silica about 7 per cent.

In addition to other newly discovered deposits on the island of Viti Levu, deposits have been also found on the islands of Vanua Levu, Gau, Mago, Maola, Lakeba.

The most substantial mining operations carried out at present in Fiji are the exploitations of gold deposits, namely, of the Emperor and Loloma gold mines at Vatukoula on the Viti Levu island. In 1953 the number of employees on the Vatukoula Goldfield amounted to 1,233, and during the same year the Emperor Gold Mining Company produced 163,541 tons of ore, yielding 64,380 ozs. gold and 15,301 ozs. silver, while at Loloma gold mines 18,479 tons of ore

were treated for a recovery of 9,871 ozs. of gold and 3,180 ozs. of silver. The Waimotu deposit which is not being prospected at present appears to warrant further examination.

While no major copper deposit has been opened up in Fiji, deposits of gold-copper-zinc type are found on Viti Levu, Vanua Levu, and the Yasawa Group. A thorough prospecting campaign, applying modern techniques, including those of geochemical investigations, might, however, produce satisfactory results. In connection with iron ore deposits in Fiji, it is considered that there would be scope for a magnetometer survey.

The Colony possesses phosphate rock deposits on the island of Ogea Driki in the Lau Group as well as black sands deposits at a number of beaches round the island of Viti Levu. Low grade coal is also found in Fiji, and oil seepages have been reported, but not substantiated. The report states that "Radioactive minerals have not been located in Fiji, nor has there been any prospecting carried out for such minerals. There are

several areas of potential interest on the island of Viti Levu and further possible areas are likely to be found on the other islands of the Fiji Group, notably Vanua Levu."

#### Fiji Gold Production and Exports

The gold production in Fiji amounted to 76,900 fine troy ounces in 1953, and to 54,210 fine troy ounces during the first nine months of 1954.

Fiji gold exports amounted to 80,200 in 1952, 70,500 in 1953 and 78,400 fine troy ounces in 1954.

#### UK Trade with Fiji

During 1954, UK imports from Fiji reached the value of £5,701,528, as against £4,976,078 in 1953. UK exports to Fiji which amounted to the value of £2,936,824 in 1953 increased to £3,299,305 in 1954. During the first two months of 1955, UK exports to Fiji amounted to £808,882, nearly double the value of UK exports during the corresponding period of 1954 (£422,908).

## SOME LESSONS OF LEIPZIG FOR THE EAST

By Edgar P. Young

THE Leipzig Fair is now, I think, generally recognised as being not only the largest, but also, more important, the most "international" of its kind in the world. It is the only place where the business representatives of the two parts into which the world is now unfortunately divided, can each see what the other has to offer, and where it would be possible to negotiate mutual exchange arrangements, if the western countries were as appropriately represented there as are their eastern counterparts. In so far as the last-mentioned potentiality is as yet not realisable, this year's Spring Fair at Leipzig, devoted primarily to the exhibition of technical products, should have been instructive to those statesmen in the West whose policy of embargoes on trade in various items described as "strategic" is responsible for this frustration. For it could be seen there that the countries which are supposed to be incapacitated by these embargoes, are now able to make for themselves and for each other pretty well everything (with the possible exception of gas-turbines) which the

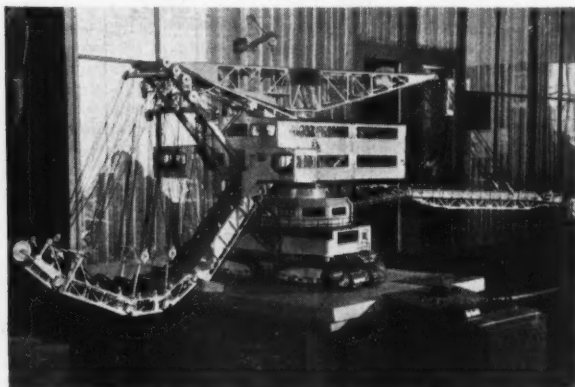
western countries refuse to sell them. The fact that these countries are prepared to export to markets other than their own, in the East, items which figure in the embargo lists of the industrialised countries of the West should serve as an urgent warning to the latter that by their own action they may soon have excluded themselves permanently from the vast and profitable market represented by the thousands of millions who live east of the so-called "iron curtain."

From the eastern point of view, by which is meant here from the point of view of the independent countries of Asia, this Fair was of particular interest. They were able to see, in the exhibit of the Bulgarian People's Republic, that a country which before 1944, and the subsequent establishment of a "People's Democracy," was economically on a par with present-day Malaya, or with Burma and Indonesia, and which has nothing comparable with the last two named in the way of natural wealth, has been able so to transform her backward economy, that she can actually export machine-tools, mining machinery and electrical equipment to China and India.

In the second place, they were able to assess the vast trading possibilities with Eastern Germany. Mr. Heinrich Rau, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Machine-construction of the German Democratic Republic, said at the opening of the Fair:

"Our policy is to extend our economic relations with all countries, and especially with the economically underdeveloped countries which are struggling to achieve national independence. We are prepared to give these last all the technical aid which they need and desire, and I would point out in this connection that our engineering industry is now in a position to take on contracts for the supply of complete plants of the most complex natures—engineering works, textile mills, sugar refineries, power stations, etc."

This statement was confirmed and amplified a few days later by the East German Deputy Minister for Foreign and Inner-German Trade, Herr Gerhard Weiss, who pointed out that the economically under-developed countries might expect from the German Democratic Republic not merely fair prices for their exports, accompanied by reasonable terms of supply and, where necessary, arrangements for long-term credit, but also a sustained demand for those exports, at the prices agreed upon.



Model of a giant excavator produced in Eastern Germany. Several of these machines are now made for China.



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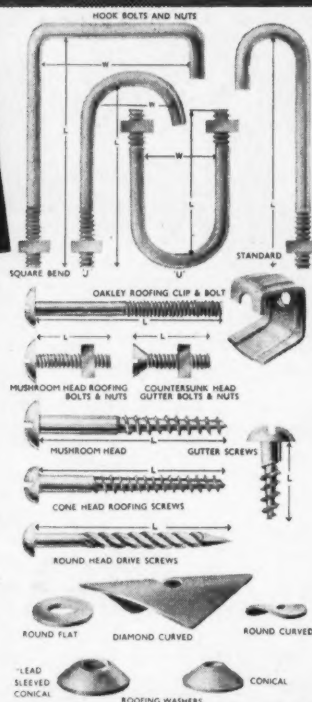
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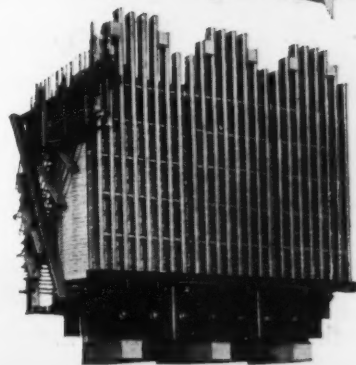
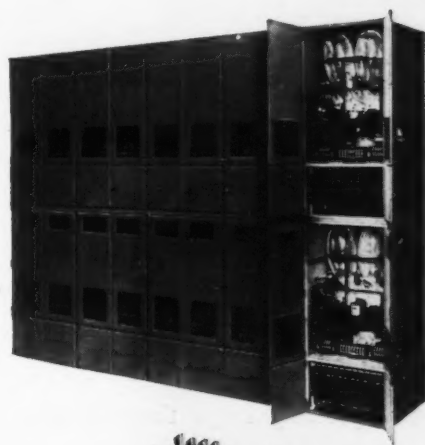
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